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No 63,853

Thatcher accepts 'more in sorrow'

Howe resigns in protest over Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SIR Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, resigned from the government last night in protest at the prime minister's attitude to the European Community, exposing the raw nerves and bitter divisions of the Tory party over Europe.

Relations between the two had been cool for months. Margaret Thatcher believed that he was undermining her with a series of coded speeches deviating from the official line on Europe but never by a sufficient margin to precipitate his dismissal. Friends said that her behaviour at the Rome summit had proved the final straw.

Sir Geoffrey, who is 63 and who has been famed for his political "stickability", handed in a resignation letter at about 6pm at a half-hour meeting with Mrs Thatcher in Downing Street last night. She accepted it "more in sorrow than in anger".

The resignation of her deputy is the most damaging of a long series of departures from her cabinet on European questions over the past year,

including those of former Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, and the former trade secretary, Nicholas Ridley. It means that Mrs Thatcher herself is the only survivor from her original cabinet.

The arrival on the back-benches of Sir Geoffrey, Mrs Thatcher's first Chancellor, will reopen questions about the leadership. MPs were even wondering last night if Sir Geoffrey, who has long nurtured leadership ambitions, will challenge the prime minister when she comes up for election next month.

The two have been at odds ever since what he regarded as his humiliating removal from the Foreign Office in July last year. Mrs Thatcher then switched Sir Geoffrey to the leadership of the Commons, replacing him with John Major. Mrs Thatcher had been unhappy about his role at the Madrid summit when he and Mr Lawson helped to push her into a commitment to joining the exchange-rate mechanism.

Only this week in the Commons, after Tory right wingers had called for Sir Geoffrey to be sacked, Neil Kinnock challenged the prime minister to offer public support to her deputy. She declined, saying that he was too big a man to need it. This week, too, Sir Geoffrey published an article contradicting the sovereignty arguments which she uses in resisting the moves to closer EC integration.

Mrs Thatcher had been given no warning of Sir Geoffrey's intentions. He asked for the meeting himself and then announced that he intended to go. As leader of the Commons, he had waited for the completion of the 1989-90 Commons programme with the prolongation of parliament yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey was refusing all requests for interviews last night, letting his long resignation letter speak for itself.

His resignation is the most graphic confirmation that the European issue can split the Conservative party. It precipitated the walkout by Chancellor Nigel Lawson last October and forced



Coded messages: Sir Geoffrey Howe exposed Tory raw nerves over Europe

Polly Peck redundancies

Administrators running Polly Peck made 70 staff redundant at the group's fresh fruit and electronics headquarters.

Yesterday Asil Nadir, its chairman, was to leave a judicial review of the Serious Fraud Office's refusal to tell him what alleged offences it is investigating. Page 25

Card offer

Discounts for cash purchases could be offered to credit card users from March next year after a ruling by the government. Page 3

The 'Fifth Man'



Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the former Secretary to the Cabinet, says today in a letter to *The Times* that the recent testimony by the former KGB spy Gita Gordievsky confirming that John Cairncross was the "Fifth Man" has virtually destroyed the case for believing that Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of MI5, might have been a Russian agent. Letters, Page 17

Roads proposal

Government attempts to recruit private sector capital for new transport infrastructure will step up next week when a proposal to increase privately-built roads and bridges will be unveiled. Page 17

Leading article, page 17

India clashes

Security forces battled to control Hindu-Muslim clashes in India yesterday as V.P. Singh, the prime minister, came under renewed pressure to resign. Page 11

Foul play

A crackdown on the so-called "professional foul" in football is littering on referees' interpretation of this blight on the modern game. Page 48

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IRA 'safe houses' searched

By STEWART TENDERL CRIME CORRESPONDENT

Police are carrying out a detailed search of two flats in Sudbury, northwest London, thought to have been used by IRA terrorists.

No arms or explosives have been uncovered although traces of explosives have been found at one of the flats.

Police have also found false papers and documents although there are no signs of any target lists. One of the flats is known to have been rented by an unknown Irishwoman. Police believe that the address might have been used by members of IRA active service units.

Detectives have been working in the area for some time interviewing landlords of short-let premises. The active service units are suspected of using a network of temporary homes in London and the Midlands as cover from which to launch attacks.

Letters for the so-called Broadwater Three - Winston Silcock, Engin Raghip and Mark Braithwaite - petitioned the Home Office earlier this year to reconsider the convictions after a BBC television documentary questioned the reliability of evidence against Raghip and Braithwaite.

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Broadwater verdicts are studied

By QUENTIN COWDRY HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are considering "very carefully" claims that three men were wrongly convicted of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock in the Tottenham riot of 1985, John Patten, the Home Office minister, said yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey was responsible for the deeply "monocentric" 1981 budget, although it was always assumed that Nigel Lawson was the guiding hand behind the tough monetary stance.

Background, page 2

Leading article, page 17

Letters, page 2

Leading article, page 17

The faithful dogged lawyer who never lost his head

Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation yesterday deprived the cabinet of its last link with Mrs Thatcher's 1979 top table. Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent, reflects on his long political career

SIR Geoffrey Howe yesterday followed in the footsteps of four of his most senior former colleagues when he resigned his posts as deputy prime minister and leader of the Commons.

Like Michael Heseltine, Sir Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson and Nicholas Ridley, Europe finally proved the undoing of a man who was once one of Margaret Thatcher's most trusted lieutenants.

Until yesterday, Sir Geoffrey, aged 63, was the only survivor of Mrs Thatcher's first Cabinet. Now there is no one at the top table who has been with her since she came to power in 1979.

Sir Geoffrey, a barrister and QC, was first elected to the Commons in 1964 and held junior ministerial rank in Edward Heath's ill-fated 1970-74 administration.

After Margaret Thatcher became Tory leader in 1975 he was promoted to shadow chancellor, an area where in power he was eventually to make his greatest mark. He also played a major part in forging the right-wing, free-market ticket on which Mrs Thatcher won the 1979 election.

His 1981 budget, in which he cut public spending during the midst of a recession, was widely vilified at the time.

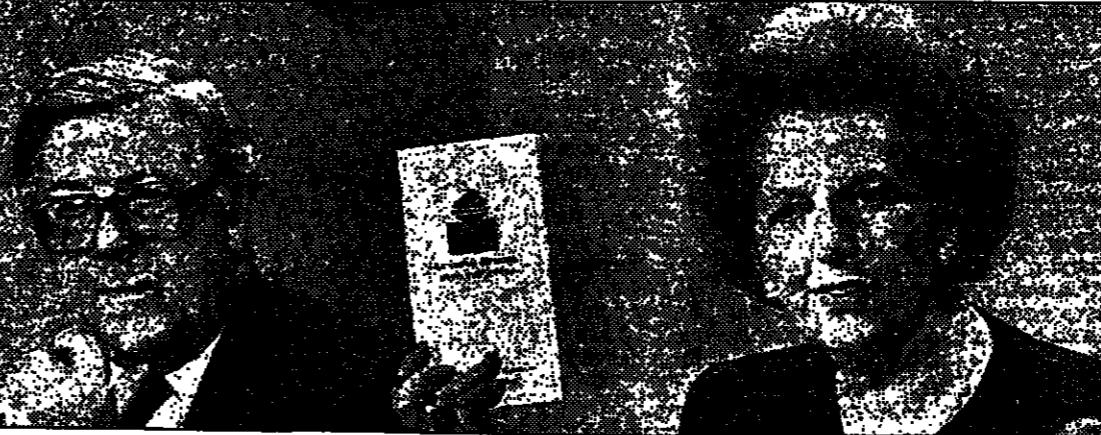
But Mrs Thatcher was determined to have her revenge. Sir Geoffrey was abruptly pitchforked out of

the Foreign Office and out of his beloved Chevening last summer in the cabinet reshuffle.

Since then, denied access to the inner councils of government and the target of repeated sniping from Mrs Thatcher's supporters, he has been a politician in search of a role. Yesterday, he tired of his coded attacks on the prime minister and accepted the logic of his increasingly isolated position.



Howe's progress: lawyer in 1963, left; chancellor in 1979, top; foreign secretary in 1983; and, below, launching the European Manifesto last year.



Howe's progress: lawyer in 1963, left; chancellor in 1979, top; foreign secretary in 1983; and, below, launching the European Manifesto last year.

Fall report, page 1
Leading article, page 17

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Ghanaian mission for teenager

A TEENAGER who runs a multi-million pound computer business flew to Ghana yesterday to supervise computerisation of various Ghanaian government departments (William Cash writes).

David Bolton, aged 17, set up his computer consultancy firm as an A-level student at Wilson's grammar school near his home in Surrey. Turnover for this year is estimated at £1.2 million. Mr Bolton made his reputation with a programme for compiling doctors' records.

The request from the Ghanaian government has meant that David will be taking a year off school.

THE former chief constable of the West Midlands yesterday welcomed the prospect of an enquiry to discover why the headquarters of the force's serious crime squad were not sealed for two days when he ordered the disbandment of the squad and an investigation of its affairs last year.

Geoffrey Dear, now inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, had been criticised for alleged 'lack of specific direction' over instructions he gave about the squad's headquarters at a meeting with two assistant chief constables in August last year.

Files and other documents are believed to have gone missing from the office.

A closed meeting of the West Midlands police authority's personnel committee yesterday agreed to recommend a special meeting of the full authority next Thursday to call in a chief constable from an outside force to investigate the alleged failure by "a senior police officer or senior police officer" of the force to secure documents at the squad's office at Bradford Street police station, Birmingham.

In a statement yesterday Mr Dear, who is outside the remit of the police authority, said: "Whilst there is no require-

Chief constable welcomes enquiry

By CRAIG SETON

ment for me to become involved in an enquiry of this nature, I am nevertheless pleased to do so and welcome the latest move. I hope that the investigation will be conducted as quickly as possible."

The personnel committee considered a confidential report from Donald Shaw, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, who was called in by Mr Dear last year to investigate complaints against the serious crime squad over allegations of falsified evidence. Mr Shaw said in his report that the failure to secure the crime squad's headquarters was brought about by lack of specific direction by Mr Dear when, as chief constable, he held a meeting with Tom Meffen and Clive Roche, assistant chief constables, on the day it was announced the squad was being disbanded.

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City's dreams hit by fire and flood

By WILLIAM CASH

HULL, once the northern capital of haddock and cod liver oil, has had its efforts to upgrade its image as a reborn thriving executive power-house, loud with the trill of mobile telephones and the roar of BMW exhausts, derailed by a bizarre catalogue of misadventure.

Things went wrong almost from the moment that the Humberside metropolis, preening itself as the waterfront renaissance city, won the contest to host this week's Association of District Councils' conference on economic development. Not quite in the league of Manchester's bid for the 1996 Olympics but somewhat more successful.

Delegates were to have stayed at the three-star Royal Hotel. Last month, it burned down, causing 140 guests to flee in their nightclothes or less. Last weekend their second choice, the Paragon, burst its waterworks and flooded. The bookings were moved to the Grange Park Hotel, an otherwise excellent establishment but for being seven miles from the city centre down a dark country lane.

For some delegates it was too much, and they opted for city-centre bed and breakfast accommodation. Others decided to stay at the Paragon,

Chief constable welcomes enquiry

By CRAIG SETON

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Electronics factory to create 600 jobs

Nearly 600 jobs will be created in the west of Scotland by a £14 million development by Delta Electronics, of Taiwan, it was announced yesterday. It will be the first Taiwanese plant to set up in Scotland (Kerry Gill writes).

The factory, which will manufacture power supply units to the Scottish high technology industry, will be sited at Inchinnan, Strathclyde.

The decision to move to Scotland was taken after exhaustive enquiries in other European countries, including Ireland.

Frank Hsiao, Delta's vice-president for sales and marketing, said that 570 jobs would be created over five years in a new factory on a 15-acre site near Glasgow airport. The plant will make switching mode power supplies used in information systems, instrument and communication products. Production is expected to begin in 1992.

Fruit stall

Marks & Spencer is to stop selling organic fruit and vegetables because of lack of demand. "Frankly, our customers were unable to find any difference in quality between organic produce and non-organic fruit and vegetables," the company said. Marks & Spencer began selling organic produce in April last year and prices were up to 50 per cent higher than non-organic produce.

Tanks delay

The decision on whether to buy British or foreign tanks to replace the army's 800 ageing Chieftains is to be delayed until next spring. Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. The postponement of the decision had, however, been expected. In a written Commons answer, Mr King cited the "uncertainties" caused by the developments in the Gulf as the reason for the delay.

Youngest poet

A Belfast schoolboy has won the Shell Young Poet of the Year award with an anthology including a poem about the death of three relatives in the Kegworth air crash. Conor Carson, who at 14 becomes the youngest winner of the four-year-old award, wrote the poem, "Family", after the funeral of his cousin and her two small children. The poem will now be published.

Imbert 'better'

The condition of Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan police commissioner, was yesterday said to be continuing to improve after a heart attack. He may soon leave the intensive care unit at St Thomas's hospital, London.

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Discounts for cash next year bring dual pricing closer

By DAVID YOUNG

SHOPPERS could be offered discounts on cash purchases or asked to pay a surcharge for using credit cards from March 1.

John Redwood, corporate affairs minister, said yesterday that traders would be allowed to charge different prices, in line with a Monopolies Commission recommendation last year.

"We have taken measures to strengthen competition, which we hope will produce a better deal for customers in the shops and a better deal for those who use credit cards in respect of the range and choice of cards 'on offer' and the charges for those cards."

He said he was not sure if many retailers would take

Car sale finance agreements fall

THE number of credit agreements taken out to buy new cars has fallen for the first time in more than five years (Kevin Eason writes).

Figures from HPI Information, the finance information group, show that the number of new car buyers taking out instalment finance fell by 2.1 per cent in the third quarter of the year.

HPI said that buyers were struggling to meet repayments as interest rates remained high. It said that car companies such as Fiat, which was offering zero per cent finance, were among those to enjoy substantial increases in credit business.

The finance-monitoring company believes that buyers are switching to cheaper models as interest rates bite.

CAP Nationwide, the national research group, has is-

sued a warning that high prices in Britain compared with the rest of the European Community, allied to high-interest repayments, were forcing private and company buyers to look for good value second-hand cars instead of new ones.

CAP said: "It is now obvious to most of the car-buying public that prices here are now far in excess of the rest of the EC. These high prices are now unpalatable to the retail buyer and unacceptable to the fleet purchaser."

Company car buyers, the research group said, now preferred to buy relatively recent used models, especially G-registered cars instead of the current H-registered models. Company fleets account for half of all new car sales in Britain amounting to £10 billion a year.

Marconi note 'seen as bomb'

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A COMPANY memorandum criticising profits made by Marconi for contract work worth over £1 million with the Ministry of Defence was greeted by senior executives as if it were a hand grenade, a court was told yesterday.

Kingsley Thrower, a senior contracts manager at Marconi, said that the profit on several contracts was not justified. Mr Thrower, aged 57, later reported Marconi to the police.

He told Winchester Crown Court that costs were transferred from completed contracts to new ones to disguise excessive profit-making.

Mr Thrower said that he wrote the memorandum after a pricing meeting with ministry representatives and that it was a "brief appraisal of what was coming to light".

Marconi and 14 executives deny 19 charges of their false accounting and deception. The prosecution claims that they stole equipment paid for by the ministry and made £300,000 in excessive profits on contracts worth £1.4 million.

Mr Thrower, who was made redundant by Marconi, denied a claim by William Denny, QC, for Marconi, that he had "had on the brain". He admitted that he was writing a book on his time at Marconi. The case continues today.

Clerics consider overhaul of archaic cathedral rules

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

The Very Rev Brandon Jackson, dean of Lincoln, under the personal jurisdiction of the Queen.

The Very Rev Brandon Jackson, dean of Lincoln, disclosed the formation of the working party in his latest chapter letter. Mr Jackson says: "The changes that will affect the whole of the structure of English cathedrals."

The working party, chaired by the Very Rev Dr Wesley Cart, dean of Bristol, will meet for the first time later this month at the deanery at Westminster Abbey.

The Very Rev Michael Mayes, dean of Westminster, is considered an impartial referee because the abbey is

It was so that the sentencing judge, if he thought it appropriate, could take it into account in sentencing."

The jury was also told yesterday that at the time of his arrest in January, Mr Marsh and his companies had debts of £124,348 according to documents seized by police. Mr Justice Fennell said, however, that the jury should wait until all evidence had been heard before judging the seriousness of the defendant's financial position.

A police forensic scientist told the court that he examined a green hooded jacket allegedly worn by the gunman on the night of the shooting which had been seized at Marsh's home, and a black overcoat worn by John Botros, Mr Warren's partner. The two men had grappled after the shooting. A forensic examination of the two garments found no fibres from one on the other.

Kevin O'Callaghan, a forensic expert in firearms and ammunition, also told the court that the gun used to shoot Mr Warren was a German-made 9mm semi-automatic Luger. He examined live and spent 9mm ammunition seized by police in the loft of Marsh's parents' home. His conclusion was that that ammunition could not have been fired from the Luger.

Mr Ferguson accused Harris of lying in the witness box and suggested that by offering to give evidence against Mr Marsh he had sought to earn himself a lighter sentence in his own case. Detective Superintendent Jeffrey Rees told the court: "I can confirm that the fact he gave information was brought to the attention of the judge. I don't think Mr Marsh confessed to shooting his manager when the two prisoners were on remand."

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On the road again: Lenihan, with an eye to the presidency, receives a hero's welcome from the party faithful on the streets of Dublin yesterday

Unbowed Lenihan on election trail

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Lenihan: presidency "not a consolation prize"

THE "sympathy campaign" for Brian Lenihan, the Fianna Fáil presidential candidate dismissed from the Irish cabinet, began in earnest yesterday with a show of force on the streets of Dublin.

Mr Lenihan was swept like a hero on the shoulders of his supporters down O'Connell Street, the capital's main thoroughfare, surrounded by hundreds of the Fianna Fáil faithful. Many in the party feel that he is still win. Those who bet thousands of pounds on him at the bookmakers yesterday seem to be equally convinced. Mr Lenihan said:

"There are seven days to go, and in that seven days I expect to climb back to the position I was in a week ago." On the advice of his family, he had refused to resign, forcing Mr Haughey to dismiss him. Mr Lenihan said he expected Mr Haughey to campaign on his behalf, and there was no bitterness between them.

Mrs Robinson said that people would distinguish between their sympathy for Mr Lenihan, which she shared, and the question of who should be president. "They don't see the office of president as being some kind of consolation prize. People are taking it much more seriously."

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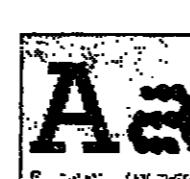
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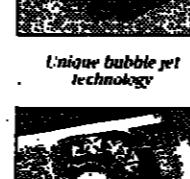
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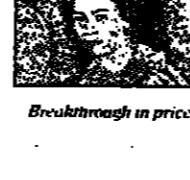
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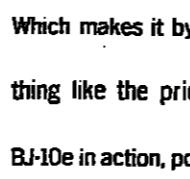
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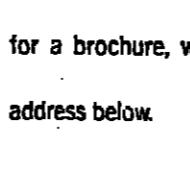
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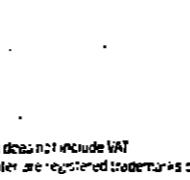
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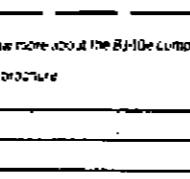
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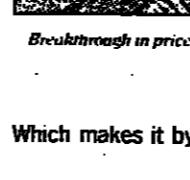
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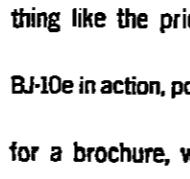
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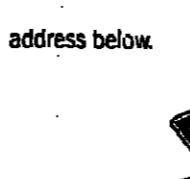
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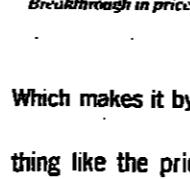
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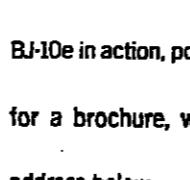
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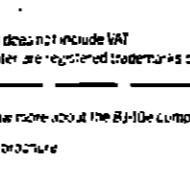
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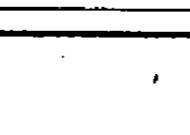
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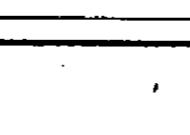
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1 Year	0%	Minimum Deposit 40%	£2456.00	£2860.00	
		Max. Repayment Period	12 months	12 months	
		Monthly Payment	£307.00	£357.50	
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	
		Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00	
2 Years	0%	Minimum Deposit 60%	£3684.00	£4290.00	
		Max. Repayment Period	24 months	24 months	
		Monthly Payment	£102.33	£119.17	
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	
		Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00	
3 Years	6.9% p.a. 13.8% APR	Minimum Deposit	£988.00	£1430.00 (20%)	
		Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months	
		Monthly Payment	£202.54	£191.77	
		Finance Charges	£1250.44	£1183.72	
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**Social
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THE British have the
highest divorce rate in Europe.
In one in three marriages end
up in court. These divorce
statistics indicate that all
have more to do with sex
custom than with law.

Divorce in Spain is relatively new. Until 1931 Franco came to power in 1939, there was no divorce. The wealth and culture could get an annulment by the Roman Catholic church but there was no legal route for the ordinary couple. Marriage was on the rocks.

In 1981, however, Spain introduced one of the easiest divorce procedures in Europe. Provided there is mutual consent, divorce can take only a couple of months. Yet Spain still has one of the lowest divorce rates, at only 4.5% of marriages.

In France, divorce for adultery was legalised in 1792 during the revolution. The number of people getting divorced doubled in 1973 when divorce by mutual consent became easier and there was no longer a need for an annulment. France now organises a police raid to prevent misbehaviour. Some 20% of marriages end in divorce.

**Dyslexia
research
unveiled**

A £250,000 research programme into dyslexia announced yesterday by Mr. Howarth, a junior education minister. The three-year project will benefit the 20 dyslexic children. Mr. Howarth made the announcement at the Hatfield Technology College, Croydon, south London, where the programme will have far-reaching benefits for all dyslexic children. He is looking to build up valuable work that is also taking place elsewhere and compare findings. One feature of the programme will be research into the possible benefits of computers for victims of dyslexia, a form of word blindness. The British Dyslexia Association estimates that children have reading difficulties but fewer than 30 get specialist help.

Law Commission report on divorce reform

Mediation urged to remove acrimony

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN OVERHAUL of divorce law in England and Wales, in which the role of fault is scrapped and divorce becomes a one-year process, was proposed by the Law Commission yesterday.

The reforms are intended to remove the acrimony and hostility engendered by the present fault-based laws in which couples are forced to "separate or remarry". In a reversal of the present law, couples would be obliged to consider the future and to make arrangements for children, the home and money before being granted a divorce. At present, decrees in uncontested divorces can be obtained within six months, with disputes over children and finance coming afterwards.

There will be a bigger role for conciliation and mediation services in helping couples sort out their problems, and probably a correspondingly smaller role for lawyers. Brenda Hoggett, QC, the law commissioner in charge of the divorce law team, said yesterday: "The totality of these proposals is not to make divorce either easier or harder. It is simply quite radically different and, in our view, a great deal better."

The reforms are being put forward at a time of widespread concern at the rate of divorce and its effects on couples and children. Last year, 150,872 couples divorced in England and Wales, affecting 150,000 children under 16. The present law has been widely criticised as making matters worse: it is confusing, misleading, discriminatory and unjust, provokes hostility and bitterness and drives couples into entrenched positions.

Under the new proposals, the sole ground for divorce should remain that the marriage has irretrievably broken down, and this would be proved by the passage of a 12-month minimum period of consolidation and reflection in which couples could use conciliation, counselling and mediation services. Professor

Hoggett said that this period was not to be a passive waiting period. "It should be put to good use, exchanging information about the children, finances and property and making proposals about what would happen to them in the event of the couple being divorced." It would also give them a chance to reflect and to decide if the breakdown was irretrievable. If, after 12 months, both accepted this was the case, this was solid evidence of the breakdown.

Counselling or conciliation would not be compulsory. "People offering these services do not want to offer them to conscripts," Professor Hoggett said. The court would have power to refer people for an interview, although there will not be sanctions if they refuse.

Although the aim is to move away from fault, fault might still be a factor if relevant in reaching decisions on the children, home or finances. Courts would have power to give orders to protect spouses against violence or other molestation and to decide who should remain in the matrimonial home during the 12 months.

Making suitable arrangements for the future would not be a prerequisite of every divorce, because some people might exploit that for vindictive purposes, the commission says. Courts would have power to postpone a divorce if it was thought desirable to ensure such



Marriage guidance: a bigger role is planned for conciliation services in helping couples sort out their problems

arrangements were made. In a minority of extreme cases where a divorce would cause serious financial or other hardship to one spouse, the courts could prohibit a divorce. Either spouse could initiate the new divorce process or do so jointly.

There is widespread support for "consensual" divorce, with the couple being encouraged from the outset to take joint responsibility for the divorce. This would be done by a sworn statement, made by one or both parties, that he, she or they believed that the marital relationship had broken down and wished to consider the arrangements for the future. This would be sworn before a court official or commissioner for oaths and lodged at a court. The statement would be on a special form, giving details of the children, home and finances.

Both parties would then receive an information pack from the court, explaining the 12-month period and the procedures during it, the legal

effects of divorce and separation, powers of the court and purposes of counselling, conciliation and mediation services that are available.

The beginning of the process would be recorded to prevent deception. The couple need not separate if they did not wish to and the decision of separating or divorcing would be made towards the end of the 12-months when an application is made towards the court. After three months, the court would monitor progress. Conciliators would have to report back to the court on the outcome of the meeting.

Courts would also have power to adjourn a particular issue to enable the parties to resolve it amicably. Any such adjournment would be a fixed period, to avoid either party using it as a delaying tactic. At

the end of 11 months, if the arrangements have been made, either party could apply for a divorce or separation order, which would be granted within one month. The court will, however, be able to postpone the divorce for any reason.

Family Law: the Ground for Divorce (Law Commission Stationery Office, £15)

Social customs colour international statistics

By ALICE THOMSON

THE British have the highest divorce rate in Europe, with one in three marriages ending up in court. However, divorce statistics internationally often have more to do with social custom than with law.

Divorce in Spain is relatively new. For 42 years after Franco came to power in 1939, there was no divorce. The wealthy and influential could get an annulment from the Roman Catholic church, but there was no legal solution for the ordinary couple whose marriage was on the rocks.

In 1981, however, Spain introduced one of the easiest divorce procedures in Europe. Provided there is mutual consent, divorce can take only a couple of months. Yet Spain still has one of the lowest divorce rates, at only 6 per cent of marriages.

In France, divorce for adultery was legalised in 1792 during the revolution. The number of people divorcing doubled in 1975 when divorce by mutual consent became easier and there was no longer a need for an irate spouse to organise a police raid to prove misbehaviour. Some 28 per cent of marriages end in

couples are increasingly opting to live together.

At 9 per cent, Italy has one of the lowest divorce rates in Europe; divorce was legalised in 1975, but few broken marriages end in the courts, especially in the south. Also, four out of five divorced Italians remarry.

In Norway, infidelity by one partner was grounds for immediate divorce until the law was changed last year, because so many couples fabricated affairs to get an easy divorce. Now divorce is automatic after a year if both partners consent; if only one wants a divorce, it takes two years.

There are no grounds for divorce in Ireland, although in rare cases a marriage can be annulled for special reasons through the Catholic church. Divorce was rejected in a referendum in 1986.

In predominantly Catholic countries in eastern Europe, divorce was a contentious issue under communist rule. The old regime in Poland permitted "quickie" divorces in local courts. The Solidarnosc government has made the procedure more difficult and limited it to regional courts.

Divorces per 1,000 marriages

UK	12.8
Denmark	12.8
Netherlands	8.7
France	8.5
Germany	8.3
Belgium	7.3
Luxembourg	6.4
Greece	2.5
Norway	2.1
Italy	1.1
Spain	0.5
Portugal	0.4
Ireland	0

Dyslexia research unveiled

Calcutt criticised by Press Council

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A £250,000 research programme into dyslexia was announced yesterday by Alan Howarth, a junior education minister. The three-year project will monitor the work of 20 dyslexic children.

Mr Howarth made the announcement at the Harris City technology college, in Croydon, south London, where the programme will be carried out. The project would have far-reaching benefits for all dyslexic children, he said. "We are looking to build upon valuable work that is already taking place elsewhere and to compare findings."

One feature of the programme will be research on the possible benefits of computers for victims of dyslexia, a form of word blindness. The British Dyslexia Association estimates 350,000 children have reading difficulties but fewer than one in 30 get specialist help.

"In a free society the exis-

tence of a body to investigate the press is only tolerable if the same body has a continuing duty to defend the freedom of the press in the interests of the public. If the Calcutt recommendation is implemented, no single organisation would be charged with that role."

The Press Council said that the central flaw of the Calcutt report into privacy and the press was its decision that the roles of handling complaints and defending press freedom were incompatible.

A report of a Press Council working party said: "For 37 years the two roles have been complementary, necessary counterparts of each other. Judging complaints from the content of newspapers and the conduct of journalists frequently involves weighing the claims of press freedom and press responsibility."

"To deal effectively with complaints... is an important contribution to the maintenance of press freedom."

Scottish newspaper editors will urge the government today not to extend to Scotland anti-intrusion laws proposed by the Calcutt committee.

Video exposes Spain's cruel abattoirs

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH livestock could suffer barbaric deaths in Spanish slaughterhouses when the single market is introduced in the European Community after 1992, an animal rights group said yesterday. At present, Britain bans the export of live animals to Spain and Portugal on welfare grounds.

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) has taken video film of conditions inside two Spanish slaughterhouses,

which shows sheep having their throats slit after being hung up by a hind leg without any pre-stunning to render them unconscious. Cattle are shown being slaughtered after having been only imperfectly stunned.

Tim Armstrong, who took the film, said: "These are barbaric methods completely contrary to EC law. The film shows the importance of abolishing the export of live animals, as we have no control over where they will end up once they leave this country."

David Bee, a veterinary surgeon, said that he was horrified by the film, which is the most graphic evidence so far of the conditions in some Spanish abattoirs. CIWF is to hand over a copy of the video to John Gummer, agriculture minister, today and urge him to maintain curbs on the export of animals to Spain.

Under EC and British law, livestock must be stunned with electric tongs or a captive bolt pistol, which fires a retractable metal rod directly into the brain, before they are shackled by a hind leg and hung upside down to have their throats cut. The only exception allowed is for Jewish and Muslim religious slaughter.

The Spanish slaughtermen are shown using a captive bolt pistol on cattle, but in such a way as merely to immobilise the animals while leaving them at least partially conscious and able to feel pain, according to the animal rights group. "They fire into the base of the neck, so as to hit the spinal cord, instead of directly into the brain," Mr Armstrong said. "Sometimes they would need two or three shots."

The Spanish slaughtermen told him that sheep and cattle brains were a delicacy in Spain, Mr Armstrong said, and that they did not want to use any stunning method that would damage the brain.

"There are scenes on the video where the cows are having their throats cut and groaning very audibly. The sound only starts to die away as they bleed to death."

Mr Armstrong managed to talk his way inside the Valdetorres del Jarama abattoir near Madrid, where sheep were being slaughtered, and the Afriviso Val Mojado slaughterhouse at Toledo, where cattle were being killed.

He said that, at the Toledo slaughterhouse a veterinary surgeon was present throughout but made no attempt to ensure proper treatment of the animals. "He was only concerned about whether the animals had had tuberculosis and took no interest in their welfare prior to slaughter at all."

The agriculture ministry yesterday said that there could be legal difficulties in preventing the export of live animals to Spain and Portugal after 1992. "That is why Mr Gummer is pressing for uniform welfare standards to be enforced throughout the Community before the advent of the single market."

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Government action urged on plight of child refugees

By BILL FROST

TRAUMATISED child refugees arriving in Britain from Eritrea have been subjected to the most appalling treatment and government neglect, relief agencies said yesterday.

Michael Feeney, refugee officer for the Roman Catholic diocese of Westminster, said that many of the children had endured more damaging experiences since coming to this country than they faced at home in a war zone. Since the end of August, about 225 young Eritreans have arrived on visitors' visas. Their par-

ents sold everything to buy airline tickets knowing that if their children stayed they would be conscripted into the Ethiopian army to fight their own people.

The refugees, some as young as 11, have been arriving at Heathrow and Gatwick terrified and all but penniless. "Some have been picked up by social workers, some have befriended passengers on the flight and asked for shelter, but others have had to fend for themselves as best they can in a country which must scare

and confuse them," Mr Feeney said. The British Refugee Council has urged the government to set up reception centres for unaccompanied young people arriving in Britain. Responsibility for such exiles rests with local authority social services departments, many of which say that they cannot cope with the financial burden.

Fourteen young Eritreans who arrived at the end of August spent two months living unsupervised in the cold, damp crypt of a church in Hackney, east London. They are now being cared for at a hostel run by Mr Feeney.

Camden, one of several London boroughs to have accepted the refugees, estimates that an extra £750,000 will have to be found to pay for their care over the present financial year. The council said the government had a responsibility to act and it was indefensible to let them just wander the streets of London.

The Home Office and the health department said last night that ministers fully understood the concerns expressed, and the difficulties presented by "an influx of this kind". The government would be issuing guidelines to local authorities on their legal obligations to care for young refugees and seeking further information about possible future arrivals from Eritrea.

FBI 'committed to Lockerbie hunt'

WILLIAM Sessions, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, last night said that he was optimistic that the terrorists who bombed Pan Am Flight 103, which blew up over Lockerbie killing 270 people, will be caught (Kerry Gill writes).

Mr Sessions pledged that the FBI would work on the case until it was solved. "You have my assurance that we will not cease our efforts," he said, giving the James Smart lecture to police officers, lawyers and judges in Glasgow.

International co-operation among investigators since the

disaster, in December 1988, had been unprecedented, and he was "strongly optimistic that this horrendous crime will be solved and those responsible brought to justice".

Mr Sessions gave a warning that the single European market would give international criminals new opportunities.

If border controls went, so would the means of tracking terrorists moving from one country to another, he said.

• Security men guarding Flight 103 at Heathrow knew nothing of a warning of radio cassette bombs, the Lockerbie enquiry was told yesterday.



Helping hand: Michael Feeney at the London hostel which has become home for young refugees some of whom lived unsupervised for two months in a crypt.

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Cabinet seeking more private cash for roads

The government wants the private sector to finance construction of roads and bridges, in return for the right to levy tolls. Michael Dynes investigates

GOVERNMENT attempts to recruit private-sector capital to a new transport infrastructure will step up next week when a proposal to increase privately built roads and bridges will be unveiled.

The move could lead, in the long term, to the creation of a private-sector trunk road and motorway network, designed to supplement existing public roads and financed by user tolls.

The proposal, which is to be announced in the Queen's Speech, was first suggested in the 1989 green paper, *New Roads By New Means*, and will effectively breach the principle that roads are free at the point of use, established after the demise of turnpikes in the 19th century. The aim is to reduce the financial burden at present shouldered by the taxpayer by transferring the risk of rising construction costs to private-sector companies. In return, such companies would be able to make an appropriate profit by levying user tolls.

Under the plan, new legislation would establish the principle that roads and bridges should, where possible, be built by the private sector, thereby eliminating the need to secure parliamentary approval for individual toll road schemes as they arise.

In spite of widespread scepticism about the viability of extending the frontiers of the free market into the provision of transport infrastructure, the government already has ten privately financed road and bridge schemes on the agenda.

They include the new Dartford-Thurrock crossing, which will complete the M25 orbital motorway; the proposed second Severn crossing; the Birmingham northern relief road (BNRR), designed to relieve congestion on the M6; new motorways linking the M25 to Chelmsford and Rayleigh; and additional estuarial crossings on the Thames, the Mersey, and the Tamar.

The idea stems from the government's success in persuading the private sector to assume responsibility for the building and financing of the Channel Tunnel. Applying the same principle to inland roads and bridges, however, causes additional headaches.

New estuarial crossings financed by the private sector are a relatively risk-free undertaking. The consortium building and financing the £26 million Dartford crossing, for example, knows that its quasi-

monopolistic position almost guarantees the necessary return on its investment. In addition, tolls for estuarial crossings are generally accepted by road users.

Privately financed toll roads, such as the proposed BNRR, which would have to compete with existing public roads, will get no such guarantees. Indeed, the banks and construction companies could find themselves in the unenviable position whereby the toll road attracts enough traffic to relieve congestion on the public road, without generating the revenue required for them to recoup the cost of construction.

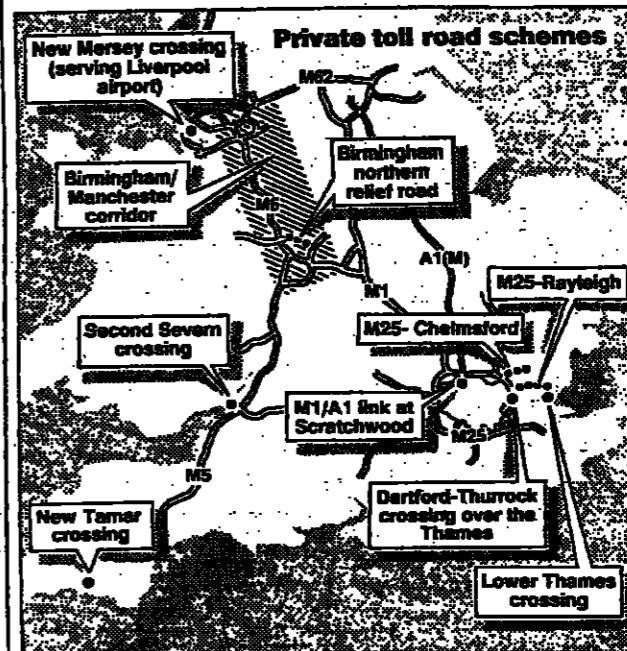
Although the government has ruled out the possibility of creating inland quasi-monopolies by handing over adjacent public roads to the private sector, the construction industry is nonetheless taking the idea seriously. The transport department is at present examining bids from three competing consortia, led by Trafalgar House, Tarmac, and Manufacturers Hanover, for the BNRR scheme, estimated to cost £250 million.

The viability of the project will be the acid test of attempts to recruit private capital into a hitherto exclusively public domain. Even more ambitious, however, is the government's efforts to encourage the private sector to produce proposals for road schemes, rather than simply taking on the risk of working on projects already contained in the national road-building programme.

Last year, after identifying a broad corridor running between Birmingham and Manchester, the government challenged the private sector to come up with its own ideas for new roads to reduce congestion between the two cities. As a result, confidential proposals have already been submitted by the Trafalgar House, Tarmac, Manufacturers Hanover and Balfour Beatty groups.

The British experiment is being viewed with intense interest in Eastern Europe, where the fledgling democracies are searching for ways in which they can rehabilitate their own neglected transport infrastructure. Critics predict a bitter controversy, however, if road users, who already pay about £4 for every £1 invested in roads, are confronted with more road charges.

Leading article, page 17



Buses are 'solution to jams'

CHRONIC urban traffic congestion could be reduced within months by the introduction of modern bus systems, an organisation representing the bus and coach industry said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes).

The Bus and Coach Council said that such a system, including a comprehensive network of priority bus lanes, bus-only roads and priority for buses at traffic lights, would cost much less than new urban road or rail systems, and could be implemented far more quickly.

Outlining a £17.5 million plan to promote the bus, the council called for the creation of a team to identify locations for pilot projects. The schemes could be financed jointly by the bus and coach industry, local authorities and the Department of Transport and implemented by the spring of 1991, the council said. It would expect significant results by 1992.

The projects would together cost less than half the £40 million wasted daily by traffic problems nationwide, and less than one of the proposed light rail projects, it added.

BA to make cheap seats sweeter

BRITISH Airways is to give economy class passengers boiled sweets as part of a £70 million project to improve the lot of those who sit at the back of the aircraft (Harvey Elliott writes).

The airline will also try to persuade more passengers to move up to business and first class. Some BA staff fear, however, that if economy is improved too much many business travellers will choose the lowest fare, knowing that they will get the service and comfort normally reserved for those paying more. There are signs that recent price increases have made many companies tell employees to travel economy class.

The boiled sweets were phased out when pressurised jet aircraft were introduced, but research has shown they are regarded as an important extra by many first-time flyers. In addition, British Airways is to introduce more hot food, better seats, free newspapers and improved in-flight entertainment for economy passengers. The name "economy" is also being dropped in favour of "world traveller" and "euro traveller".

Teachers' leaders take on left in battle over pay tactics

MANY parents who accept that classroom salaries are too low will find their loyalties torn again this weekend when they see teachers calling for strike action and work-to-rules that can only damage their children.

The threat of classroom disruption will resurface when the National Union of Teachers holds a special conference in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, on Saturday to formulate its pay claim for 1991-92. After seeking the views of its 190,000 members, the moderate executive is suggesting that all classroom teachers should receive a 10 per cent rise plus £1,500 from April 1991 with further rises in the following year, which would increase salaries to between £12,502 and £23,000.

The basic rates for classroom teachers from January will be £9,900 to £16,000, although various extra payments are available.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has told the Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay, that salaries for 1991-92 should be set in the middle 50 per cent of white-collar pay settlements in the 12 months to the end of this month, a figure likely to be about 9 or 10 per cent.

The committee, chaired by Lord Chilver, has also been asked to find a way to allow schools and local authorities to set pay scales to solve local problems of teacher shortages and to reward the best teachers.

The unions, particularly the NUT, are reluctant to see too

As the biggest teaching union debates pay, its leaders believe it must avoid strike action to retain hard-won public support, reports David Tytler

much flexibility and want substantial overall increases. The loudest claims at Scarborough will come from the hard left which will continue to argue – though unsuccessfully – for a large flat-rate increase.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, makes no secret of his belief that his militant minority, which is on show every year at the union's annual conference, damages both the union and the image of teachers generally. It is particularly harmful, he believes, at a time when public opinion largely backs the committed teacher.

Mr McAvoy, said: "There is now a greater awareness among parents and the public generally of the need to pay teachers more. Part of the battle has moved our way but we are bound to put parents off if the debate in Scarborough moves towards strikes rather than reinforcing the persuasive arguments we have already used so

effectively." In an attempt to diminish the left-wing influence, Mr McAvoy persuaded the union executive to take pay out of the union's annual Easter conference and to debate it now after consultation.

While opposing strike action, the executive is likely to accept amendments which ask for certain sanctions to be put into the union's armoury: that teachers should work no more than their contracted 1,265 hours a year, and that they should refuse to take part in the compulsory testing of seven year olds next May without a satisfactory pay offer. The executive, though, will be relying on the fact that no action can be taken until after a full membership ballot. Mr McAvoy is betting on a majority rejecting such moves.

All the other main unions have made their claims to the advisory committee, which will set teachers' pay for the last time before negotiating rights, taken away by Kenneth Baker three years ago to end the teachers' strike. The committee will submit its report early in the new year so that Mr MacGregor can make his announcement in March.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, the country's second largest teachers' union, has already asked for a minimum increase of 15 per cent and a 35-hour week. A pay scale more directly linked to inflation and pay rises for comparable work is



Left out: union leaders hope to curb the influence of the left – evident at the NUT's April conference – in order to retain public support

favoured by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which it says would produce a classroom scale for good graduates starting on £11,800 going to a maximum of £19,600 with comparable increases in allowances for special responsibilities.

The 130,000-strong National Association of Headteachers has proposed a 13.6 per cent rise for

all heads and deputies with further increases to be negotiated with local education authorities and governors.

From January next year heads of small primary schools will receive £19,200 to £21,400 which the headteachers' association wants to raise to between £21,470 and £27,264. It would like the salaries of heads of the largest

secondary schools to rise from £37,902 to £52,833.

The Secondary Heads Association which represents 6,000 heads and deputies, has asked for a minimum 15 per cent for all teachers and another 4 per cent to be distributed by governors among deputies, heads and some senior staff.

All the unions believe that the

public accepts that teachers' pay must be increased sufficiently to keep properly-qualified staff. Mr MacGregor is concerned that scenes at Scarborough on Saturday could jeopardise that support. "We must continue to keep parents and the public on our side by argument. There is no doubt we would lose their support if we resort to disrupting schools."

Karpov error with pawn leads to a swift draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE ninth game of the World chess championship in New York ended abruptly early yesterday in a draw when the challenger Anatoly Karpov allowed a key pawn to be captured on the 32nd move.

Karpov had been pressing for a win with the traditionally advantageous white pieces but on the 32nd move he placed a bishop on the d2 square,

which allowed black to snatch a key central pawn. By playing the superior 32 Bf4 Karpov could have kept his chances alive for some time. However, since Gary Kasparov's position was solid it is doubtful even in that case if a win could have been achieved.

Karpov scored a slight moral victory when Kasparov abandoned his favourite King's Indian Defence after the severe battering it had received in game seven. Instead, the world champion, playing with the black pieces, reverted to the Grunfeld Defence, which had been his staple diet during the two previous title defences in 1986 and 1987.

Doubtless exhausted by the marathon game eight, one of the longest ever played in the history of world championship chess, the two contestants opted for a line where queens were exchanged, which emphasised quiet strategic manoeuvring. Karpov enjoyed a slight advantage in that he had the pair of bishops and more mobile pawns. After his error on the 32nd move, however, the position immediately became one of rooks and opposite coloured bishops, where it was clear that neither side had any prospect of victory.

Latest scores:

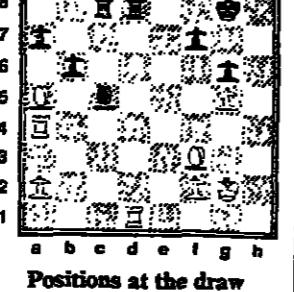
Kasparov: 4½; Karpov: 4½

• The headings for the moves in the eighth and ninth games were transposed. The first column should have been white and the second black.

Karpov white, Kasparov black

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	Nf6	18 Nf3	Bf5
2 c4	g6	19 Bx3	Nc6
3 Nc3	f5	20 Bx3	Rc8
4 Bb5	Nc6	21 Bx3	Nf8
5 e5	Nc3	22 Bx3	h6
6 b3	g7	23 Bx3	g6
7 Bb2	c5	24 Rxf1	h5
8 Qd2	cxd4	25 exd4	h4
9 Nf3	Qd5	26 g4	h3
10 Re1	Qxf3	27 Rxf3	g4
11 Qxf3	Nc5	28 Rxf4	g3
12 Nc3	d5	29 Rxf5	Rxf5
13 Be2	d7	30 Rxf2	Rxf2
14 Nf3	Qd5	31 Kxf2	Rxf2
15 c3	Qxf3	32 Rxf3	Rxf3
16 Re1	Bg4	33 Rxf2	Rxf2
17 d5	Nd7	34 Rxf3	Rxf3

Draw agreed



Positions at the draw

Shellfish climate pattern in doubt

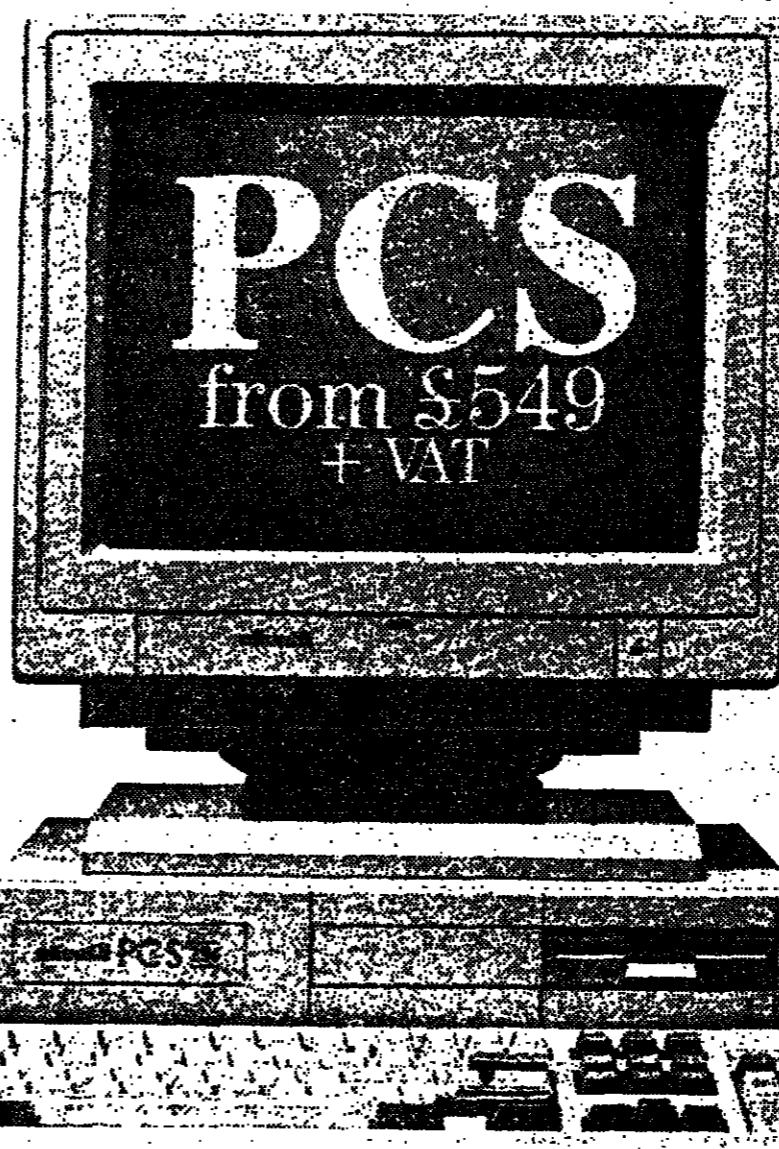
By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A TECHNIQUE for assessing the climate of the Earth's oceans millions of years ago and predicting global warming can produce widely inaccurate results, scientists have found.

Since the 1960s some geologists have based estimates of ocean temperatures during the last 600 million years on the remains of brachiopods, small bivalves with calcium shells. Ancient temperature patterns determined from the shellfish influence some research on modern climate trends.

If temperature patterns have varied widely in the past

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Difficult balancing act for ministers as poll tax grant is set

Even months after the first community charge bills started to go out in England and Wales, opinion polls still show little enthusiasm for the new tax. Wednesday's announcements about capping and government grants suggest that the government remains highly sensitive to the possible impact of local tax bills next year.

In the system with which ministers, councillors and campaigners against the tax are grappling, there is a wafer-thin margin between spending levels that lead to unacceptable charge bills and those that produce politically damaging cuts.

Such is the sensitivity of the system that if, overall, councils exceed the government's assumed spending figure by just 2 per cent, the community charge would have to rise by £20. That may not sound much, but it would be the difference between hitting the government's target of £380 an adult and ending the average charge next year above

the politically sensitive average of £400.

The announcement of total government cash support for each council in England this week was accompanied by a parallel announcement about capping next year. Overall, the increase in central support for local government will rise by just under £3 billion, as announced in July.

The distribution of the money, however, will leave some authorities much better off in 1991-2 and others worse off. Capping will be used to ensure that authorities – particularly the high spenders – do not gleefully spend the additional central subvention.

Central support to local authorities comes in two main forms, grants and business rates. In addition, some authorities receive transitional assistance of various sorts. By comparing the total received from the government by an authority this year with what it will receive next year it is possible to gauge how far the council will be under pressure.

The results of this reallocation

of government funds should lead to relatively high charge increases in authorities in Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and elsewhere in the northeastern part of England, with the chance of lower increases or even falls in some parts of the South.

Of course, a surge in inflation could push up the charges of all authorities next year. On the assumption, however, that retail prices fall next year towards a rate of 6 or 7 per cent, the government is banking on the fact that the extra central support for authorities, coupled with the new capping powers, will produce an average charge not far from £400 without sharp drops in spending. By

announcing the limitation rules in advance, the government hopes that all councils will choose to spend below the level at which they will be capped. This method of proceeding is not universal capping as such, but it will have almost the same effect as a limit on every authority's spending.

The effect of the rules announced for capping next year will be to hold down the budgets of the highest spenders, while placing much less pressure on lower spending councils. If that impact is placed alongside the allocation of central funding considered above, it is clear that the government wants to see level or falling charge levels in many inner cities, especially in London, while being prepared to tolerate bigger rises in many parts of the North of England.

Because of changes in income from the centre, year-on-year variations in local tax will not relate directly with changes in individual authorities' spending

levels. Capping will almost certainly mean reductions in real spending for a fair number of higher spenders. The usual crop of city authorities are likely to have the greatest need to make such cuts and ministers are aware that dismissing teachers and road sweepers in moderate Labour or even Conservative authorities could be every bit as unpopular as big rises in the charge.

Chris Patten's package of support and capping for local government will take effect at a crucial time for the government. The next set of community charge bills and budgets will be presented to the public next March and April. Local elections in some shire and all metropolitan districts take place in May.

This year, there is little doubt that, with the exception of London, the Conservatives had a bad time of the local elections. Community charge must have played a part in cutting the Tory vote.

Next year's elections will be used by politicians in an attempt to assess the public mood. In 1983 and 1987, local elections were influential in determining the timing of the general election. They are likely to be so again next year. Much more than local tax bills hangs on the success or failure of Mr Patten's local government finance settlement.

The author is a research director at the LSE.

CHANGES IN SUPPORT PER ADULT

Region	% (£ per adult)
London	15.2 (£131)
South East	21.1 (£209)
East Anglia	12.4 (£54)
South West	5.7 (£25)
West Midlands	13.1 (£75)
East Midlands	8.4 (£42)
Yorks/Humber	5.3 (£23)
North	11.7 (£72)
North West	5.0 (£31)
England	12.6 (£71)

* Excluding London

Source: CIPFA

Election groups get to work

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher's preparations for the next Conservative manifesto are gathering pace with the first meetings of the policy groups formed to supply ideas for a fourth term in power.

Some have held their inaugural meetings. The others are expected to get down to their work once Parliament returns for the new session on Wednesday.

The prime minister announced the formation of the groups in July. They are broadly structured on departmental lines with cabinet ministers in the chair and with the membership made up of junior ministers, the chairmen of the Tory backbench committees and experts from outside.

Departments with wide areas of responsibility are understood to have spawned more than one group. Some cross-fertilisation is being attempted, with ministers from one department sitting alongside their colleagues from another. The groups are believed to comprise 10 to 20 members.

The groups are operating to a working deadline of early in the new year and most are expected to complete their work by the end of January.

The groups' reports will be studied by a manifesto committee of senior ministers led by Mrs Thatcher.

With Labour enjoying an option poll lead well into double figures, however, few Tory MPs expect a general election before next autumn.

Democrats toughen demand for poll reform

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats toughened their stance on electoral reform yesterday, pledging that they would refuse to co-operate in a hung parliament with any party that did not offer electoral reform.

After an all-day meeting of the Liberal Democratic MPs, Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said: "Electoral and constitutional reform is not a programme or a manifesto point; it is the pre-condition without which no programme for the reconstitution of Britain after Mrs Thatcher can be successful".

That marks an important strengthening of the conditions for any participation in a coalition government by the Liberal Democrats: they would no longer be content with the offer by another party of a referendum on the subject or any other half-way house.

In response to questions, Mr Ashdown said that his MPs, if in a position to do so, would use their votes to bring down any minority government that refused to offer electoral and democratic reform.

He criticised Neil Kinnock, Labour's leader, for being dragged along by his party members on the issue of proportional representation and accused him of trying to sweep the subject under the carpet.

The Liberal Democrat leader said: "We are not afraid of, but do not seek, a partnership government". The party's aim remained that of winning government in its own right.



Wash and brush up: With the end of the parliamentary session yesterday, the statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square is given a cleaning

Bills go through despite revolts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs LEFT Westminster yesterday at the close of Margaret Thatcher's third year of her third administration having passed into law 34 government measures.

Rows, revolts and many late nights disturbed the smooth passage of the heavy legislative session. The chief difficulties for the government's business managers came from disputes about community care, dogs, abortion, the fate of Hong Kong citizens and a ragbag Scottish bill. By comparison, they had unexpectedly little trouble in steering through health service reforms, the regulation of human embryo research, law reforms and student loans.

The Queen's speech on Wednesday will unveil a lighter, less politically controversial programme to give the prime minister the option of calling a general election next year.

The main government acts to become law during the session were:

NHS and community care: to allow hospitals to opt out of health authority control and to become self-governing trusts and to introduce a more competitive climate into the health service. Revolts on the community care proposals led Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, to delay their introduction.

War crimes: the Lords killed the bill allowing the trial of alleged Nazi war criminals now living in Britain. The government is to reintroduce it next session and use the Parliament acts if necessary to force it through. Ministers are holding talks with legal peers on their objections to the changes in the law.

Food safety: a largely non-controversial measure to improve standards of food handling and processing.

Employment: the fifth piece of industrial relations legislation. The act bans the closed shop.

Other measures include improvements to security at airports and ports; a paving bill to reorganise the finances of British Coal; improved protection for public house tenants; changes in the drinking and penal law in Scotland; the privatisation of the management of the Whitehall estate; and giving the vote to residents on Caldey Island and making them liable for poll tax.

Few bills introduced by individual MPs and peers were enacted. Two exceptions were the bill to criminalise computer hackers and a requirement for horse riders under 14 to wear safety hats.

Labour front bench job for Rooker

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK intensified Labour's attack on the government over the health service yesterday by appointing one of his senior backbenchers, Jeffrey Rooker, as his spokesman on community care.

Mr Kinnock has brought Mr Rooker back to the front bench in an expanded health and community care department headed by Robin Cook.

Mr Rooker, a former local government spokesman and unsuccessful candidate for the job of chief whip, is one of Labour's leading campaigners for proportional representation. It was denied last night that his appointment was an attempt to gag him on that issue.

Mr Rooker will also speak on personal social services.

His appointment, announced by Mr Kinnock yesterday in a limited reorganisation of front bench jobs, means a return to the backbenches for Tom Clarke. Others leaving the front-bench are Paul Flynn, who asked to stand down as a social security spokesman, and Richard Caborn, an industry spokesman, who is to concentrate on campaigning in the country on regional policy.

Other newcomers appointed to the front bench are Tony Banks, MP for Newham North West, who will serve under Michael Meacher as a socialist gathering

A FORUM that brings together members of most political parties on the left is hoping to attract up to 2,000 participants to its fourth annual conference in Manchester this month.

The Socialist Movement, born in Tony Benn's Cheshirefield constituency four years ago, has now become a full-blown organisation, providing what some of its members see as a way to reintroduce the Labour party to socialism.

Mr Benn said yesterday that he saw the movement as a network rather than as a political party. "It is not a political party, not a new socialist international, in the old sense ... and I have a simple objective, that every party in Britain should be a socialist."

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£ 5,000 - 9,999	12.5%	9.6%	
£ 500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	

SUPERFIELD 10-DAY NOTICES			
Balances	Annual Interest	6 Monthly Income	Monthly Income
£5,000 - 200,000	Gross Net*	Net* 10.55%	Net* 10.3%
£ 25,000 - 200,000	14.13%	10.6%	
£ 10,000 - 24,999	13.33%	10.0%	
£ 5,000 - 9,999	12.5%	9.6%	
£ 500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	

SUPERFIELD 60-DAY NOTICES			
Balances	Annual Interest	6 Monthly Income	Monthly Income
£25,000 - 200,000	Gross Net*	Net* 10.05%	Net* 9.8%
£ 10,000 - 24,999	13.33%	10.0%	9.75%
£ 5,000 - 9,999	12.5%	9.6%	9.35%
£ 500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	9.05%

SUPERFIELD 60-DAY NOTICES			
Balances	Annual Interest	6 Monthly Income	Monthly Income
£25,000 - 200,000	Gross Net*	Net* 10.40%	Net* 7.80%
£ 10,000 - 24,999	13.33%	10.0%	8.00%
£ 5,000 - 9,999	12.5%	9.6%	8.00%
£ 500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	8.00%

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*David and Andrew.
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Railway. "Mum told us
not to get dirty, so it was
really funny when she
slipped in some oil."*

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Communal clashes put pressure on Singh to go

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SECURITY forces battled to control Hindu-Muslim clashes across the north of India yesterday as the government struggled to deal with the chaotic political aftermath of the assault by Hindu extremists on the ancient mosque at Ayodhya.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister, is under intense pressure to resign. If he refuses, the governing Janata Dal (People's Party) looks certain to split. Deve Lal, the former deputy prime minister who was sacked by Mr Singh for disloyalty, is a leading candidate to take over.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of Congress (I) and a former prime minister, is anxious to avoid forcing an early general election. His party is willing to support the present government provided that Mr Singh is replaced, arguing that India

cannot risk a poll while it is torn by widespread caste and communal violence. Congress (I) opposes the creation of a national government but says it is ready to offer constructive support from without.

The party is clearly playing for more time to consolidate its position after its rout in northern India in the last general election less than a year ago. The longer it waits the more assured will be its victory as the issues of prices, Punjab, Kashmir, caste and communalism batter the present embattled government.

Mr Singh will not be easily removed if he refuses to go, since a two-thirds majority in the parliamentary party is needed to topple a leader. The president of the National Front, the five-party body that heads the coalition government, meets today to consider the leadership issue.

The National Front parliamentary party meets on Sunday to discuss the leadership question. Near day the Janata Dal parliamentary party meets. Finally — and this is the acid test — parliament votes next Wednesday on a one-line confidence motion tabled by Mr Singh. He has told President Venkateswaran that he believes he can still command a majority.

The prime minister has been banking on being saved by defections by low-caste and Muslim MPs from Congress (I) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a former ally which has withdrawn support from Mr Singh. But there is no serious question that he will lose. Only if a new leader is in place by the time the vote is taken could the outcome be different; if that happened the extremist BJP might even return to the fold with its decisive block of 86 MPs.

The Muslims are Sri Lanka's third largest community after the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Their mother tongue is Tamil, but they have associated more closely with the Sinhalese. The rebels have accused them of collaborating with the army in the Eastern province and massacred over 200 Muslims at Enavu and Kamalandy in two separate incidents in August.

Mr Wijetunga said that the troops had been unable to move earlier, as they had to avoid a situation of Muslim civilians being killed.

He alleged that the Tamils had loaded more than 2,000 Muslims living in the northern Jaffna peninsula into buses and sent them to Vavumya, about 90 miles south of Jaffna.

Meanwhile in the Eastern province, 11 civilians, seven soldiers and two rebels were killed in two separate incidents. At Velloyo in Eastern Trincomalee district, rebels attacked the village and killed 11 civilians and seven soldiers. At Atha Oya, they shot three civilians, two of them women.

The government announced that the constitution will be amended to enhance fundamental rights, including freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and punishment, inherent right to life, freedom of information including publication.

Troops strike at Tamil rebels

From VUTHA YAPA
IN COLOMBO

TWO battalions of the Sri Lankan Army landed on the island of Mannar yesterday among reports that more than 45,000 Muslims have fled the area under threat from Tamil rebels.

The minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijetunga, said that troops had already started operations to liberate the Mannar area from the rebels.

The Muslims are Sri Lanka's third largest community after the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Their mother tongue is Tamil, but they have associated more closely with the Sinhalese. The rebels have accused them of collaborating with the army in the Eastern province and massacred over 200 Muslims at Enavu and Kamalandy in two separate incidents in August.

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Cancer diagnosis 'can stay secret'

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE high court has ruled that doctors are not obliged to tell patients they are suffering from cancer, rejecting a claim by a victim's family that she might be alive today had she been informed of her disease.

The ruling will ensure that cancer remains taboo in Japan, where doctors feel awkward breaking the news to patients, even though it has become the country's single biggest killer.

Court officials said yesterday that the high court in the central city of Nagoya ruled on Wednesday that relatives of Kazuko Makino, a former nurse who died of cancer in 1983, aged 50, had no case against the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Four of Mrs Makino's relatives sued the society on the ground that they were unable to save her life because doctors had not told the patient or the family she was suffering from cancer.

The family said in their suit that doctors found Mrs Makino had cancer of the gall bladder but told her she had gallstones. Mrs Makino, believing that she was not seriously ill, stopped visiting the hospital.

Surveys show that eight out of 10 doctors in Japan lie to

their patients. They give a diagnosis of a stomach ulcer, a vaginal cyst, or gallstones to avoid telling the truth. One survey found that 30 per cent of doctors would not tell a patient about cancer even if it were curable.

But doctors are not alone in this conspiracy of silence. Most Japanese patients, unaware that many cancers can be treated if caught early, prefer not to know. Partly because of ignorance, partly because of superstition, cancer carries a great stigma in Japan. Parents try to avoid their children marrying into a family in which someone has had cancer.

The ignorance and the phobia continue, even though cancer remains Japan's leading cause of death. Nearly 27 per cent of all deaths in Japan last year were attributed to cancer. One of those was Emperor Hirohito, who was kept in the dark about his pancreatic cancer throughout his long illness.

The presiding judge of the Nagoya high court, Judge Shigeo Ito, said that the dead woman and her doctor did not share a "relationship of mutual trust" that would have enabled him to disclose the true nature of her condition to her or members of her family.

The presiding judge of the Nagoya high court, Judge Shigeo Ito, said that the dead woman and her doctor did not share a "relationship of mutual trust" that would have enabled him to disclose the true nature of her condition to her or members of her family.



Riot victims: A family sits amid the ruins yesterday after their home in the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong was destroyed in rioting by Muslim extremists who attacked Hindu places of worship in the old part of the city defying the night curfew. Shops were broken into or set on fire. The 300-year-old Dhakeshwari temple was damaged and another was vandalised. One person was killed and over 60 injured overnight as police fired on a crowd to

prevent looting. More than 100 were arrested. The state-run radio said a curfew had been imposed throughout Dhaka and its suburbs from 4 pm local time. Police with loudspeakers ordered residents to stay indoors. The curfew prevented planned peace march by opposition political parties, students, teachers and artists in the afternoon. Muslim violence against the minority Hindu community

flared up after a fictitious report in a fundamentalist daily that a mosque at Ayodhya in India which is at the centre of a Hindu-Muslim dispute had been demolished by extremist Hindus. The newspaper *Inqilab* called for an Islamic jihad or holy war against "the enemies of Islam". President Ershad banned the paper but it was allowed to resume publication after publishing an apology.

Muldoon challenge to new cabinet

From RICHARD LONG
IN WELLINGTON

THE unity of New Zealand's new National Party government was challenged yesterday just minutes after the prime minister-elect, Jim Bolger, announced his new cabinet.

Sir Robert Muldoon, the former prime minister, persistent after being excluded from the cabinet, turned down the position of minister of state, outside cabinet, saying he wanted to be free to criticise the government. Sir Robert, aged 69, who was prime minister from 1975 to 1984, said he wanted the freedom to criticise the government's actions and to "keep the cabinet honest".

"I have been around a long time, and I believe I had something to offer a cabinet," he said.

Winston Peters, a Maori and the party's most popular MP, who criticised its hardline economic policy and Mr Bolger's leadership during the election campaign, also signalled that he would continue to speak out even though he had been included in the cabinet. Mr Bolger bowed to party and Maori pressure to include Mr Peters.

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Runcie urges restoration of links with Damascus

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DR ROBERT Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday joined the families of hostages held in Beirut in urging the government to restore diplomatic relations with Syria.

His move followed signs that the lack of relations may be holding up the release of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, and possibly also Jack Mann. It coincided with the arrival in London of four Iranian diplomats to reopen their embassy after the renewal of diplomatic links with Tehran. David Reddaway, the

British chargé d'affaires in Tehran, is due to meet Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, next week. He will ask Tehran to use its influence with Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian group in Beirut believed to hold the hostages.

John Lytle, secretary for public affairs at Lambeth Palace, criticised the government's refusal to talk to Damascus as "a silly way to conduct foreign policy". He is understood to have written

to William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, expressing "astonishment" that Britain had blocked the lifting of European Community sanctions against Syria.

The government wants evidence that Damascus has dropped its support for international terrorism, but Mr Lytle said: "In relations between states, as between people, if you expect people to grovel you make little progress. What matters is that the Syrians are not now involved in organising or sponsoring

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Home truths: the mother and sister of Omar Sirhan, a Palestinian teenager who murdered three Israelis last week, grieving at their house, demolished by soldiers.

Florida campaign tests a new style of politics

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

IN A BIG television studio a few miles north of Disneyworld, Bob Martinez, the governor of Florida, indulges in some make-believe of his own. It is midway through the only public debate he has agreed to in this year's gubernatorial contest.

A Republican, Mr Martinez tells the audience that public duty moved him to write to Lawton Chiles, his Democratic opponent, last week demanding to know why he met a dubious Miami businessman in 1987 while chairman of the Senate budget committee.

Mr Chiles, smiling with James Stewart charm, turns to Mr Martinez, the younger man, and says the letter was riddled with base innuendo. It was a perfect example of how negative campaigning works: "Throw enough mud and the other candidate has to spend his time trying to get off of himself."

He then pulls from his pocket a list of contributors to Governor Martinez's 1986 campaign. There is the name of Charles Keating, America's crook of the moment, in jail on charges of perpetrating serious fraud on customers of his failed savings and loan

institution. "When you throw those eggs, sometimes they blow up in your face," Mr Chiles gently advises his shaken opponent. It was a moment to savour for the man who, in one of the most important contests this year, has been running one of the most perverse and idiosyncratic campaigns.

Tapping into deep popular discontent with politics-as-usual, Mr Chiles has rejected the slick 30-second ads, the electronic image-making, the sophisticated demographic targeting, the spin doctors, the sound bites, the razzmatazz and all the other staples of modern American electioneering and is attempting to win with a grassroots campaign that makes a virtue of its minimalism. "Trust the people" is his war cry.

Mr Chiles first won his Senate seat in 1970 after walking the 1,013-mile length of Florida, earning the nickname "Walkin' Lawton". He quit in 1988, burnt out and disillusioned, but last April, aged 60 and claiming new vision, he announced his political comeback. Declaring big money the root of all evil in US politics, he undertook to accept no donation of more



Martinez told that "some eggs blow up in your face".

than \$100 (£51.50). When Ronald Reagan, the former president, flew in for a lavish \$1,500-a-head dinner for Mr Martinez recently, Mr Chiles held a \$1.50 "people's picnic" with hot dogs and Coke at a nearby fairground.

It may be a noble experiment, but Lawton Chiles's Democrats clutching the edge of their seats. No gubernatorial contest save California's is as important.

Peter Stothard, page 16

US school-leavers' exam gets bad marks

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

AFTER three years of wrangling amid the outcry over the decline of education in the United States, a team of scholars has produced a new national examination for school-leavers that fails to require them to write a single word of their own but allows them to use calculators for the mathematical questions for which they must provide their own answers.

"This is like rearranging the deck-chairs on the Titanic," Robert Schaeffer, a campaigner for improved standards, said on Wednesday after the College Board announced the first big overhaul since 1974 of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), now renamed the Scholastic Assessment Test. The nearest thing America has to a national educational yardstick.

Originally designed to provide a standard for assessing university applicants, the SAT has become a rite of passage for most high school pupils

outside some areas of the Midwest. For two decades 17-year-olds have had only to tick off multiple choice answers for every educational skill, from mathematics to comprehension and languages. Computers mark the results.

The tests have come under fire from every side in recent years for superficiality and an alleged bias against racial minorities and girls. Special coaching schools have flourished by teaching pupils the art of test-taking, including the technique of choosing answers by guesswork.

As the College Board worked on its reforms, the United States has been confronted with striking evidence of failure in its schools. In a mathematics and science comparison last year, American children scored last among students in all the other developed countries and second in the Third World.

Nearly a million children graduate from high school

every year unable to read at the level expected of 11-year-olds. Employers, warning of economic catastrophe if education does not improve by the next century, are spending heavily on remedial classes for secondary-school graduates. A

telephone company in New York recently rejected several thousand applicants for a handful of low-level clerical jobs because none could summarise a simple paragraph.

In a typical quip, E.D. Hirsch, the author of the best-selling *Cultural Literacy*, recently observed: "The one thing adults can take comfort in is that your 15-to-17-year-old children know less than you do."

The SAT board set out to create a better gauge of analytical ability and one that would hammer home to schools the importance of reading and writing. They were expected, among other things, to introduce at least

one compulsory essay. But the pressures of lobby groups, politicians and more radical educators proved too strong. Most argued that black and Hispanic Americans and recent immigrants would be at a disadvantage.

The main reform is the introduction of an open-ended format for about 20 per cent of the mathematics questions. This means that pupils will have to calculate their own answers without the prompting given by multiple choice.

They will be allowed to use calculators, a step that yesterday drew criticism from racial minority groups who claimed that poor children would be at a disadvantage.

With the failure of the board to introduce any test of self-expression in the SAT, critics were quick to point out the irony of a sample essay question issued by the board this summer: "The more things change, the more they stay the same: Discuss".

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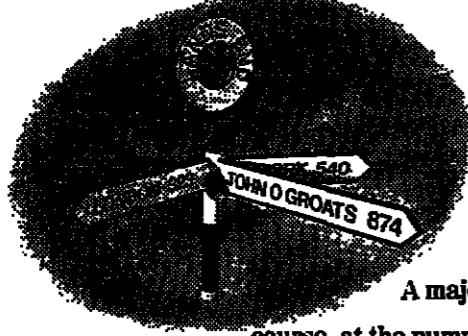
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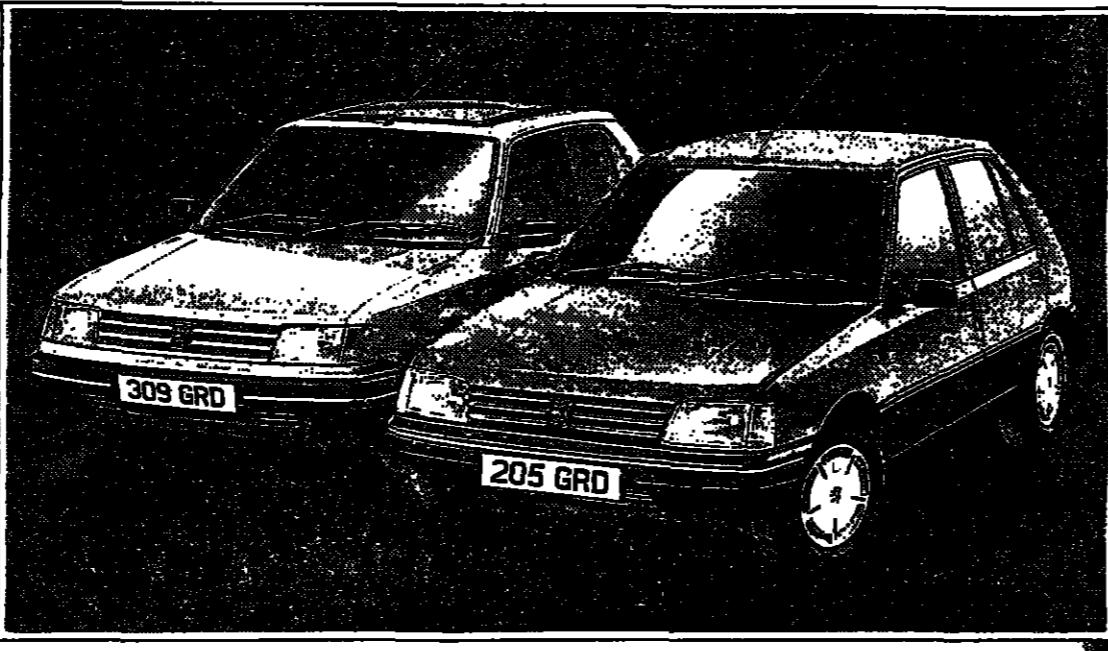
A major saving is, of course, at the pump. Petrol prices vary wildly, yet diesel remains consistently cheaper - currently by about 22p/gallon*. Also of course, with a diesel you get more miles per gallon than with equivalent petrol models. In an economy test, under RAC scrutiny, a 309 GRD travelled from Land's End to John O'Groats on less than 12 gallons of fuel - not even a tankful - averaging an incredible 79mpg! Economy continues right through the range - the 309's smaller stable mate, the 205 GRD can return up to 72.4mpg at a constant 56mph. Even under stringent Government tests it can do up to 52.3mpg in simulated urban traffic.

Diesels are perfect for everyday driving. They warm up quickly, so they are more efficient on short runs - precisely the sort of journey when petrol engines are at their least efficient. Peugeot diesels are refined, smooth and quiet - with impressive performance. ("For the enthusiastic driver the 309 Turbo Diesel is pure bliss" - Diesel Car, June 1990).

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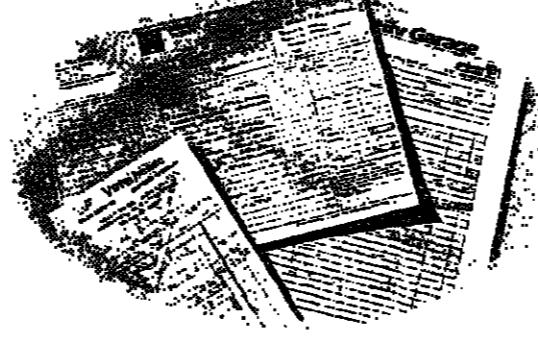
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They are also environmentally 'clean'. Diesel fuel contains no lead and a well-maintained engine, using the newer, more advanced diesel fuels, emits approximately 1% of the level of carbon monoxide emitted by a normal petrol engine, about 70% less hydrocarbons and 20-30% less carbon dioxide.



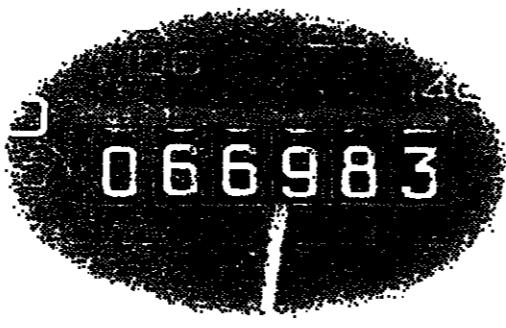
SAVINGS AT THE GARAGE

Diesels are inherently more robust than petrol engines. They don't have complex electronic ignition systems, so there's less to go wrong. (As the AA will tell you, many of the faults they rectify are those of ignition). Over the life of the car the garage bills should be a lot less.



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Because diesel engines, on the whole, rev slower than their petrol equivalents, they don't have to work as hard. So there's less wear and tear on the engine and the car. (Interestingly, there could be less wear and tear on the driver too; 'The Independent' has reported



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Ethnic unrest makes Moldavian independence a poisoned chalice

THE latest bout of ethnic unrest in Moldavia shows how national self-determination has become an open invitation to secession as much within the Soviet republics as within the Soviet Union itself.

Given the rich mosaic of peoples inhabiting Moldavia, its declaration of sovereignty, made in June, could well become a poisoned chalice, for it has provoked the minority Russian and Gagauz populations to demand their own autonomy and may well lead the significant Ukrainian element to call for union with the newly semi-independent Ukraine.

For the long suffering Moldavian majority, the emergence of a vociferous nationalism among the once dominant Russians and the once quiescent Gagauz is seen as part of a sinister Moscow plot to divide and rule in an area

which has been a shuttlecock of history. The Moldavian republic is an artificial creation of Stalin, carved from the body of the Romanian province of Bessarabia which changed hands between Russia and Romania four times until 1918 when it was awarded to Romania.

In 1940, at the same time as he annexed the Baltic republics, Stalin ordered Bessarabia and sought to stamp out the Romanian identity of its majority population by renaming them Moldavians, renaming the province Moldavia, and replacing the Roman alphabet with the Cyrillic one.

After the last war Russian was imposed as the official language and thousands of activists were brought from Russia and Ukraine to communise the republic, diluting in the process

Moldavia shows that self-determination by Soviet republics has opened a Pandora's box, writes Dennis Deletant, as minorities within their borders also seek the right to secede

the Romanian element in the population which was further weakened by mass deportations to Central Asia in the 1950s.

This policy of russification was accelerated, as in other Soviet republics, by enforced socio-economic changes, the most important of which were migration and urbanisation. Between 1960 and 1980 the number of Russians in Moldavia almost doubled to more than 500,000, whereas the Romanian population registered only a natural increase, rising to just over 2,500,000.

Russian predominance in

Moldavia was reinforced by the minorities' use of Russian as their second language, after their native one. Now that predominance is threatened by the adoption in September last year by the Moldavian parliament of a new language law making Romanian the official language and giving Russian a second-class status. Moldavians' assertion of their true identity has been further manifested in the adoption of the Romanian flag as the republic's flag and of the Romanian-language name of Moldova.

The Russians fear that they will now be at a disadvantage in

the jobs market; the Moldavian parliament has decided for example that all state employees must pass a rigorous Romanian language test. Faced with the loss of their privileged position, the Russians, who form some 15 per cent of the republic's population, called in June for the establishment of their own "Dniester republic".

Their action was copied in August by representatives of the 150,000-strong Gagauz community, an ethnic group unique among the populations of Moldavia. Now Orthodox Christians, their origin is obscure.

One theory holds that they are descended from a Turkic tribe who settled in the area in the 11th century; others believe that they are Turkified Bulgarians who retained their Orthodox religion.

Speaking a language related to Turkish, they were forced to use

the Cyrillic alphabet, and only a handful of works in their language has ever been published. It was not until 1987 that moves were taken to introduce teaching in Gagauz in schools in Moldavia and this official neglect of their culture prompted their parliamentary deputies' call for the setting up of a Gagauz autonomous republic and an appeal to President Gorbachev for support. The Moldavian parliament ruled the Gagauz illegal and banned the Gagauz Khalky (Gagauz people) movement. Undaunted, the Gagauz deputies declared they would proceed with a declaration of independence. This has now sparked the combustible sentiments of the Moldavians.

A third potentially explosive minority problem involves the 600,000-strong Ukrainian population of Moldavia. Neigh-

bouring Ukraine's own recent affirmation of its national identity in a declaration of sovereignty can only embolden the Ukrainians of Moldavia to press demands for the safeguarding of their own distinct ethnic identity.

It is tempting to argue that such minority problems will act as a spur to those Moldavian leaders who wish to bury them in a union with the motherland, Romania; however, the Romanian government has its hands more than full with the country's Hungarian minority and for the moment would probably be relieved to be spared further international embarrassment as it seeks to live down the miners' debacle of June.

Dennis Deletant is Senior Lecturer in Romanian Studies, University of London.

Ukraine starts food rationing but fails to issue coupons

From NICK WORRALL IN KIEV

THE Ukrainian government introduced a tough new rationing system for food and consumer goods yesterday but in such haste that the majority of the 50 million people were unable to buy essentials because they had not yet received coupons.

The scheme has been introduced at a time of dire shortages and public political pressure on the republic's government which have led to an "explosive situation", according to one leading Ukrainian politician.

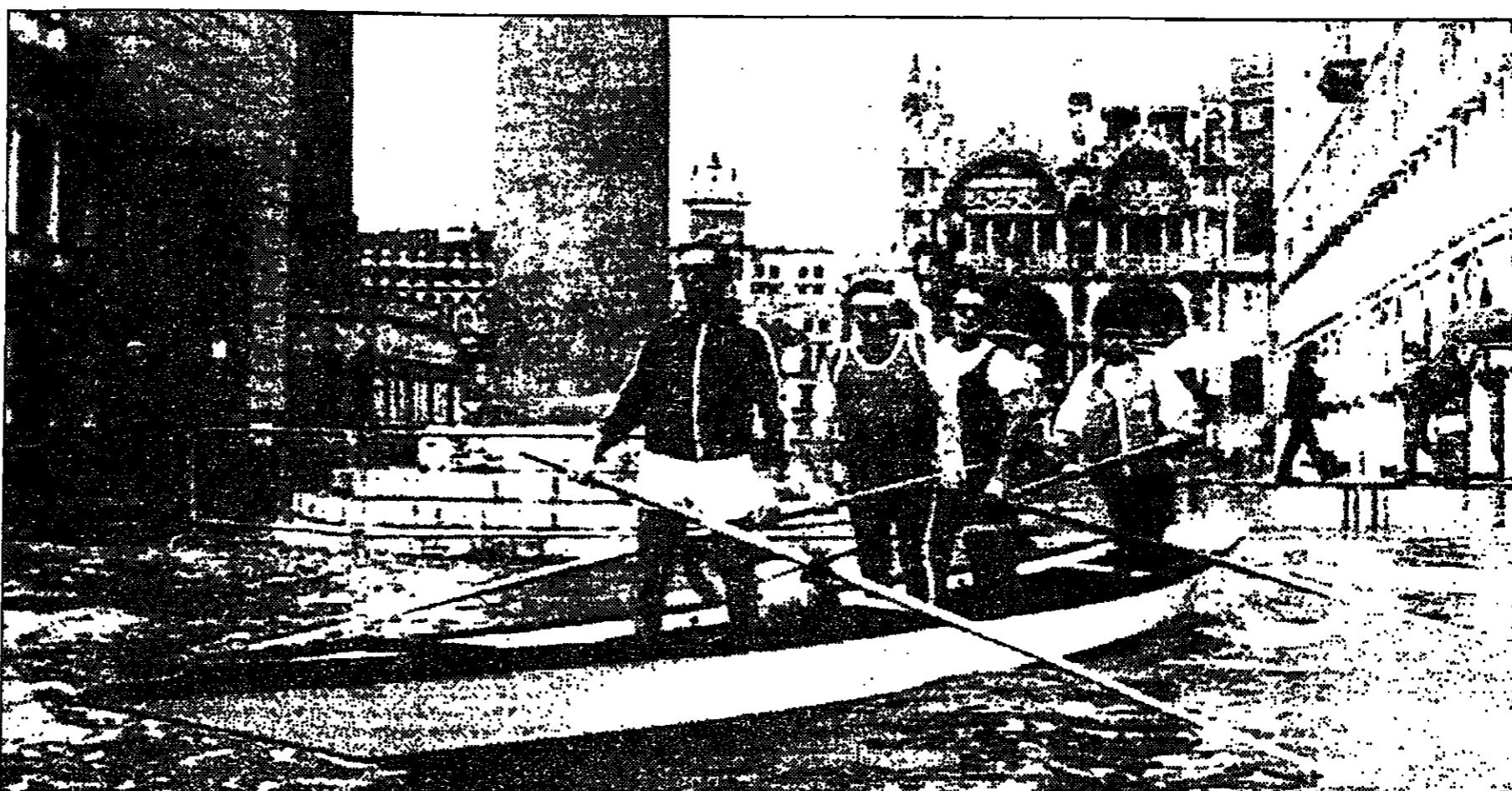
But many workers will have to wait nearly a week for their coupon sheets, which the government will issue in monthly wage packets. The bulk of state employees are not paid until November 7 while no provision at all has yet been made for non-state workers.

Kiev city council, fearing widespread chaos since the plan to introduce rationing in state shops and enterprises was revealed on Sunday, defied the republic's government by decreeing that bread and milk products should still be available without coupons for a time. Other Ukrainian cities are believed to be considering similar action.

Although Ukraine is an important producer of Soviet food supplies are still short at the best of times, and Sunday's announcement caused a rush to buy up remaining stocks. By Monday afternoon, shelves were virtually empty.

Despite years of promised reform under President Gorbachev, the centralised Soviet state sector still provides the vast bulk of food and goods at subsidised prices, though much appears on the black or alternative market at much higher prices.

In the covered markets, which are exempt from coupons, prices have risen steeply with the prospect that many Ukrainians would be forced to buy there during the chaotic introduction of the rationing system. "I'm only here for the money," said a Moldavian honey



Damp course: gondoliers providing the only means of transport in St Mark's Square on the third day of flooding in Venice, when waters reached 44 inches above normal

First free-market prices hit Romania

From REUTER IN BUCHAREST

TEN months after a popular revolt ended communist rule in Romania, the country yesterday faced its first free-market shocks as the government lifted price controls. November 1 was the date decided for prices to be set according to the law of supply and demand on everything except staple foods, electricity, heating, petrol and rents. Coinciding with the new pricing system, the currency, the leu, was devalued to 35 from 21 against the dollar.

The shift to a market economy is a clear, if painful, break with 45 years of central economic planning. Shop shelves in most areas were largely emptied by panic buying in advance of the change. "There is no other solution, and it is better to do it sooner rather than later," Petre Roman, the prime minister, said on Romanian television on Wednesday night as he sought to dispel public fears

that liberalisation meant an uncontrolled rise in prices, which would be unbearable in a nation where living standards have declined steadily over the past decade.

Mr Roman said the measures were not aimed at the population but at loss-making industries, which had benefited from large subsidies for raw materials. These subsidies would have to go. "Romania's economy is heavily dependent on raw materials and especially energy imports. What we are going to subsidise from now on is no longer resources but finished goods," he said.

Mr Roman's National Salvation Front won landslide victory in the general election in May and promised to lead Romania towards a market economy and turn it into a Western-style democracy. "This is a crucial moment for our society and the most radical

economic change since the December revolution," he said in his broadcast.

The parliamentary reaction was mixed. The opposition National Liberal Party generally backed the measures but had serious reservations about guarantees on social security. The government has announced wage indexation, with monthly compensations of 750 lei for those in work and 400 lei for pensioners as prices for non-essential foods, drinks, consumer goods and services are allowed to float.

Radu Campeanu, the Liberal party leader, said: "This is not a liberalisation but a readjustment of prices in keeping with economic realities. But people are not prepared and might take it badly against the background of our economic and social crisis."

Public reaction was mixed. The young seemed more willing to

accept the measure. "Financially speaking, the measure is difficult but welcome," Stefan Petrescu, aged 28, a geologist, said. But Dumitru Ispas, aged 46, a driver and father of three, said: "I will be compelled to go on stealing from the state to be able to make a living. I'm already contemplating going to work abroad, maybe in Africa."

After the ending of four decades of communist censorship last December, Romanian state television is next month to broadcast its first political satire, sponsored by the Liberals. In the show, called *Zoo-Pol*, animal puppets will portray government and opposition figures prominent since the uprising which toppled Ceausescu, a party spokesman said. A lynx wearing a miner's helmet, alluding to last year's rampage by miners in Budapest, will represent President Iliescu.

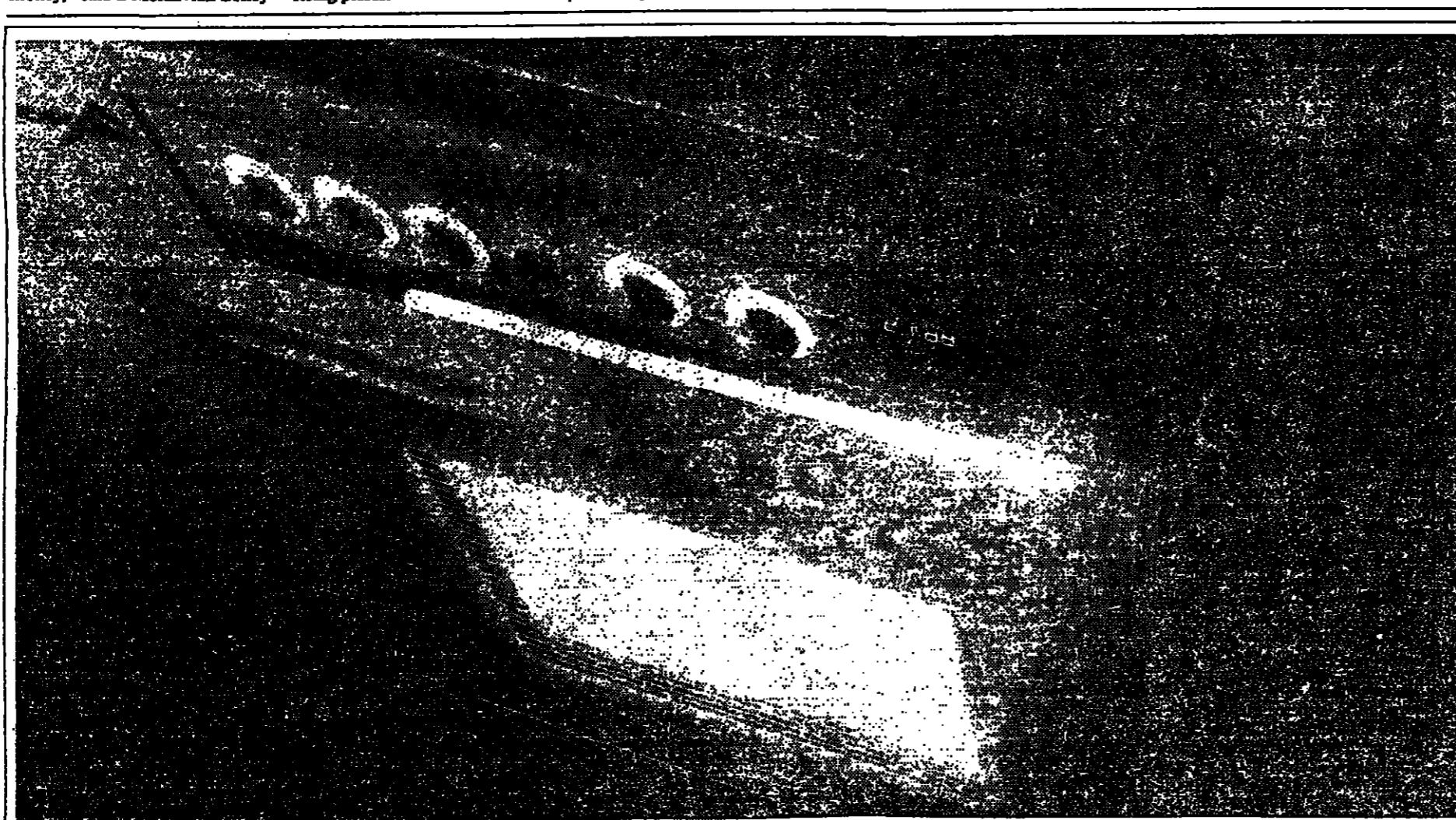
Inefficiency eats into rich harvest

From REUTER IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union has had a record grain harvest this year but up to a quarter of crops were lost in some areas due to storage and transport problems, a senior official said yesterday.

Leonid Vashchukov, of the State Statistics Office, told *Pravda* the harvest would total 240 million tonnes, surpassing the previous record of 237 million, set in 1978. The figure confirmed estimates issued last month by a government official. Last year's harvest was 211 million tonnes.

Mr Vashchukov acknowledged losses of 20 to 25 per cent of crops in certain areas due to problems with labour, fuel, transport and storage.



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Phantom of the paradise

Philip Howard

Cloud-cuckoo-land is the cliché of the week. The prime minister used it to handbag European monetary union. Picking up the nice knock-down phrase, the director-general of the CBI said that the TUC was still stuck in the Seventies, somewhere close to cloud-cuckoo-land. Both of them got the term wrong. It is not surprising that the other European heads of state were confused about exactly what Mrs Thatcher had in mind, though I daresay that her wild, wild eyes and tone of voice gave them a good idea.

Cloud-cuckoo-land is an old jester's expression, grossly misunderstood, widely misused and useful for the instant images that politicians manipulate. It has become a derogatory vogue term, supposed to mean a silly sort of place, part away with the birds, part cuckoo, part castle-in-the-air, and wholly undesirable. That is mildly what the prime minister thinks of European union. Before the nonsense goes any further, it is worth recalling that the original cloud-cuckoo-land was a very desirable and highly successful state, the ancestor of our Utopia and never-never land.

It was a city built on air as a stronghold for the birds above the plain of Phlebas in Greece. *The Birds*, a comedy by Aristophanes, was first performed at the great Dionysus festival of 414 BC. It tells the story of an ingenious Athenian called Persuader, who gets the birds to build a city in the clouds, and so compels the besieged gods, cut off from their food of sacrifice, to accept humiliating terms.

As it was being played, the imperial Athenian navy, the most formidable armament that had ever issued from a Greek harbour, was sailing across the known world to a remote island in the far south west. It was an expedition far more fateful than the Falklands campaign, and it was on collision course with disaster. Even the dimmest member of the audience could grasp the satirical connection between the visionary ambitions of the birds and the imperialist ambitions of Athens. Perhaps Aristophanes' masterpiece took only second prize because of Athenian jingoism and Gotcha headlines in the pop press of the day.

Nephelococcygia, cloud-cuckoo-land, was indeed fantastic, but in the play it is crowned by brilliant success. It is shown to be a better place than either Athens or heaven itself. For example, entrance is refused to common informers, chat-show hosts, tabloid journalists, libel lawyers, weather forecasters and other plagues of society then and now. By surrounding itself with strict customs barriers and tariffs, cloud-cuckoo-land sets an archetypal example for Fortress Europe. The flavour of the first cloud-cuckoo-land in *The Birds* is far-off, paradisical, infinitely desirable and

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Can it really be but one short week since Englishmen were running around their gardens, crying: "How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is, that we should be digging trenches and trying on balaclavas here because of a deep depression over a far-away ocean between two occluded fronts of which we know nothing?"

Strange it was, that Pre-Wind period. I did not myself dig any trenches, having replaced all my fences after the Last Lot, thereby obviating the need, when storm clouds once more threatened this island race to sink concrete stanchions as per my esteemed order, bolt 4x4 uprights thereto, attach 20 lengths best feather-boarding, creosote and make good to highest finish, remove all rubbish from site and go bankrupt. But all around me, last Friday, the gardens rang with the noise of spade on kneecap as frantic neighbours dug in against the imminent onslaught.

I did, however, a lot of battering down. Who dared not give the hourly alarms of Met Office windmeters still stinging, three years on, from meteorology's Pearl Harbour? Quite how far up the mobility-scale to batter was another matter; clearly, notes should not be placed in milk-bottles, nor even milk-bottles on steps, but how about, say, crated milk-bottles? Shattered crates to be lashed to gates? Or dubious since the First Great Hurricane, when lids flew like Frisbees, our old bins had all been replaced by wheelies. True, their lids were attached, but who could assess their potential for instability? Might they, when the typhoon struck, begin to roll? Was our hill looking at a Sorcerer's Apprentice situation? But if we moved our kerbside cars out of the way of the hurtling charge, it could only be back into the driveways from which we had already moved them out of the way of the falling states.

How much of a tree should one lop? Was it riskier to crawl out and rope a dodgy chimney than to let the bricks fall where they may? Should hanging baskets merely be lowered to the ground and left, or brought indoors against the possibility that they might gradually rock

greatly preferable to the ugly here and now. This is not the impression the prime minister gives of her attitude to European union. In Athens 24 centuries ago, there was disaster in the air. The first great European civilisation was about to crash in its Sicilian expedition. Cloud-cuckoo-land is a charming and whimsical fantasy of better times and better places, somewhere over the rainbow.

Nevertheless, we are all Europeans now. It is no bad thing for our politicians, who are widely perceived as tunnel-visioned philistines (as they were also by Aristophanes), to refer to the roots of our common literature. They do not even need to cock it up. (Cloud-cuckoo-land was dedicated to the Persian Prince Cock, the god of war of birds.) There are plenty of opposite topical references to our present troubles in *The Birds*. For example, I cast Jacques Delors as the oracles-monger, who speaks self-seeking prophecies in high-flown Eu-hubbub: "Dear girl, directly inspired, if thou dost as I bid, thou shalt surely / Soar in the clouds as an eagle, reuse, and thou never shalt become an / Eagle, or even a dove, or a woodpecker tapping the oak tree."

After a referendum Persuader prophesies back: "But when an impudent scoundrel cometh uninvited and maketh himself a bloody nuisance to them that do carry out the sacrifice, and asketh of a share of our money, then shall thou sock him hard between the ribs with thy handbag." Then at the end of *The Birds* a delegation arrives from the gods to sue for peace. With the other European heads of state comes an uncoffin figure from a rude and faraway land, who dresses in a funny way, and cannot speak intelligibly. In the play he is Tribulus, God of the Thracians. Today, I cast him as Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, who wears clothes that would not do in Finchley, keeps on getting snapped in undignified company in dignifiedly by paparazzi, and is so very disrespectful about our prime minister.

Not all the Utopian qualities of cloud-cuckoo-land are helpful. It is not just that there will be no hard Eu up there. There will be no money at all. And private property will be abolished. But one obvious echo from the play is the heroine. At the end, Persuader demands from the gods as his bride Mrs Sovereignty, the beautiful Miss Whiplash warrior queen who rules the world. She descends, radiant in her wedding dress, bearing the thunderbolt of Zeus. In his allegory, Mrs Sovereignty represents for Aristophanes a return to patristic Toryism from the populist demagoguery that he thought had ruined Athens. The world has changed. But I daresay we could find someone somewhere whose head would fit that old wedding tiara.

...and moreover

Frances Gibb on the latest attempt to make the law match the way we live now

Divorce fit for a modern marriage

The proposals published yesterday for divorce reform, the biggest overhaul of the law in England and Wales for more than 20 years, come at a time of widespread concern at the levels of marriage breakdown. Last year more than 150,000 couples divorced in England and Wales, and on current trends it will not be long before 40 per cent of marriages can be expected to end in divorce, with a quarter of children under 16 affected by the break-up.

The consensus of recent years has been that the divorce laws are confusing and misleading, unjust and discriminatory to couples who are less well-off, and likely to provoke needless hostility and bitterness through the role of fault (nearly three-quarters of divorces are based on adultery or unreasonable behaviour). Finally, the law does nothing to save marriage, where that might be possible, and it can make matters worse for children by forcing couples to make accusations and dwell on the past rather than sorting out the future. Reformers have therefore

tried to close the gap between divorce laws and reality.

There is a history of similar attempts. The last big review was in 1965, which led to the present legislation, enshrined chiefly in the Divorce Reform Act 1969. This was a big improvement on what had gone before. Its aim, as now, was to remove the bitterness and distress caused by the need to prove what was called a matrimonial offence. Hence the new principle was born of irretrievable breakdown of marriage as the sole ground for divorce. But fault persisted. Irretrievable breakdown was to be inferred from one of five grounds, three still involving fault.

Yesterday's proposals finally sound the death knell of fault. Under them, the sole ground remains irretrievable breakdown of marriage, but this is to be proved by the passage of a 12-month minimum period in which couples must sort out all arrangements of custody and finance. Only then will the divorce order (no more decrees) be granted.

Will the proposals succeed? The consultation process over the past

two years has been dogged by criticisms either that divorce would be made easier or harder. It is a debate that has plagued discussion of divorce over the centuries. At the centre of this has been the extent to which church or state should limit the rights of individuals to end their marriages. In fact, for much of recorded history, neither church nor state played a role in divorce. The common feature of pre-Christian marriage, whether Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Celtic or other, was the relative ease of divorce.

Only with the rise of Christianity did control come. The right of divorce, which until about the 10th century was in most places a domestic and private matter, was gradually eroded. With the Reformation, the power Rome had taken was reduced in many countries, but the state exercised authority in its place. John Milton, lamenting the restrictive divorce laws, urged a return to what he saw as England's lost heritage of liberal divorce before the Norman conquest.

Yet not until this century did

the divorce laws move back towards control by the married couple. With the latest reforms, the state's role will be further reduced: courts will not be required to adjudicate on fault but will help couples sort out the future.

The huge increase in divorce is not a sign of the breakdown of the family, but a measure of how it has become more accessible and cheaper, no longer the preserve of the upper middle classes. Since 1939 the number has grown from 10,000 a year to 58,000 in 1970 and about 140,000 at the end of the Seventies. Legal aid, the 1969 act, better assistance for divorced wives and general affluence have all been factors.

But if divorce is now available, is it a safe ask to make it easier? Would the new proposals make divorce easier or harder? Any reform must steer a path between the critics in both camps. Mindful of this, the Lord Chancellor, to whom a divorce bill would fall, has in recent months softened the ground for the report's appearance. Divorce over time, he has

said, which requires couples to consider children and their future first, is not an easy option.

The Law Commission's own answer is that the proposals encourage a new approach which might be harder for some, easier for others. In particular it will be easier for couples who now are forced to separate for years before petitioning for divorce, but harder for those who would not be able to dissolve the marriage as quickly as now.

The argument about ease or difficulty is not central to the spirit of the reforms, however. The reformers say they are not so naive as to believe that laws can either hold marriages together or cause them to fall apart; nor that good laws can remove all pain from divorce. They can, however, reduce the anguish involved. By reducing the conflict, the Commission says, the reforms should minimise harm to children, and encourage parents to look to how they can best meet their responsibilities in the future, rather than dwelling on the unhappiness of the past.

America swaps spin doctors for a doctor of philosophy

In normal times, Dr John Silber would not be favourite for the governorship of Massachusetts. He is a Texas philosopher whose first love is Immanuel Kant. He likes to solve problems from original principles, dismissing most current ideas with a thrust of his withered hand and a withering gaze. In his personal manner he affects the austerity of Socrates, his other hero. To an electorate that has been wooed for decades by honeyed words and handouts, this year's Democratic candidate ought long ago to have been political "dead meat" for the gulls of Boston harbour.

But these are not normal times. Massachusetts has a hole in its heart after the collapse of the machine that Michael Dukakis built. Economic miracles have been revealed as mirages. The proud state of the early Puritans has become a joke, and it wants someone to make it serious again. In the year since he took campaigning leave from the presidency of Boston University, John Silber has broken every rule in the party hack's handbook. He has talked of "the phenomenal racism of Jews". He has called his adopted state "a welfare magnet" for immigrants. He has written off one section of the electorate as so riddled with drug addicts as to be not worth speaking to. He has blamed working women for neglecting their children. He has suggested that when the old are "ripe to go" it is foolish to waste money keeping them alive.

When questioned about his so-called "Silber shockers", he does not back off in the time-honoured manner of the professional politician. He backs up his assertions by appeals to unclouded thinking and the application of favourite fundaments of thought. He uses Kant to set high standards of personal behaviour, invoking the "categorical imperative" that moral actions are those whose guiding maxims can be universally enjoined. In his book-length manifesto entitled *Straight shooting - what's wrong with America and how to fix it*, he writes that there is not one logic for scientists, another for bookmakers and physicians, another for artists and politicians. "There is one ethic, one set of principles for the guidance of human conduct."

Not surprisingly, the prospect of a philosopher-governor has filled themselves across the lawn and through the lower panes of the greenhouse? What of the greenhouse itself - did one open its doors to prevent the wind's shattering it, or shut them to prevent the wind's blowing everything that was inside outside?

You did what you could, you went to bed, and you lay awake, ears cocked and trembling for the blitz. You did this three nights on the trot. But nothing happened. It was the Phoney Wind. On Monday, the Met Office confirmed that no blue birds had been blown over the white cliffs of Dover. Johnny could sleep in his own little room again. You were no longer obliged to tether him to the boiler.

The days grew so calm and sunny, indeed, that I decided to paint the front door. I had been planning this for some time, but the propitious moment had not hitherto offered itself. Now it had. We had come through. The door that might have blown off had not even been invited to rattle. A celebration was required.

The paint went on a treat: when I stood back at last, the finish was irreproachable. So smooth, so lustrous, that were a vacancy suddenly to appear in the ranks of Joan Collins's *maquillage* team, I could have taken the door round as a reference. Leaving it to dry, I went in and poured myself a congenial glass of Scotch. As I did so, the latch of the back door rattled. I looked through the window, but there was no one there. While I was looking out, a leaf flew by, and then another. The back door rattled again, and blew open.

By the time I got to the front door it resembled nothing so much as a kindergarten nature-table. There were sycamore seeds stuck to it, and little berries and a variety of insects so catholic as to what even the most jaded entomological palate. I got the bumblebee off, because it was still in working nick, but as it flew away I could not forbear a sneer at a creature so dumb as not to appreciate the risk of being blown into a freshly painted door.

Fancy not knowing that a wind can suddenly come up out of nowhere.



Peter Stothard, US editor, on the rise of John Silber (above), the likely governor of Massachusetts after Tuesday's election and a man with ambitions to reform the nation

some sections of the state with alarm. All politics is about horse-trading, but Massachusetts politics is one of the biggest markets in the nation. "I could see John Silber taking Kant to Tennessee," said a former colleague, "but to Boston . . . The mind boggles."

To others, John Silber is the straight-talking incorruptible who is set to purge them of the spirit of his disgraced predecessor. In this year's Democratic primary the electors threw out virtually everyone who had ever met Michael Dukakis. Now is the time, they say, to consider a shock in itself.

So, what will victory mean? Dr Silber sets out in his book a case

for radical changes, particularly in American education. He wants children to be taught in the manner of a hundred years ago by means of moral maxims. "If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride" is his favourite, followed by "the idle fool is whipped at school" and "Queens and kings must die in the dust".

What can they expect? And will

Dr Silber, if he succeeds in straightening the mores of Massachusetts, be casting his eye further afield, to "fixing" everywhere else too? Those are the questions now exercising the powerbrokers of the Democratic party. The campaign itself has dulled in recent days.

But before the deadline for

tendering had expired, a letter of

alarm was sent to the ESCO sales office at Abingdon.

A spokeswoman for the Bank of England tried to soothe passions: "It's our policy to shop around. You would not expect a British institution to do otherwise."

While the House of Lords nurses its disappointment in the face of the defeat of the dog registration bill, peers might be interested to hear of the Soviet solution to the problem of stray dogs. The eastern

Soviet town of Ust Kanchaka has issued a system of rewards for those nimble enough to catch stray dogs.

The capture of one stray dog equals a 10 kopek reward, 10 dogs

equal a vacuum cleaner, 50 pounds

a fridge, and those who achieve a

century can shuffle home with a

colour television.

Pandit panned

The combined forces of Mrs Thatcher and the Queen have failed to stir Britain's Indian community into enthusiasm for funding the new Nchuru gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The 800,000-strong Indian and south-east Asian community here has so far contributed about £100,000 to the £2.2 million cost of the gallery, to house 30,000 pieces of art from the sub-continent when it is opened this month by the Queen.

"We are slightly disappointed," admits Julie Laird, director of the appeal, launched by the prime minister. "We are still approaching people as they seem to take a long time to make up their minds. They like to find out what each other is thinking and doing."

He wants huge state investment in pre-school education to right the wrongs of a society in which, quoting Juvenal, "luxury is more ruthless than war". He wants junior schools to stay open from 7am to 6pm. He is not afraid of advocating big expenditures but also wants a 25 per cent cut in federal employees over five years and a balanced budget. How will he do it all? By cutting waste, and by using his aggressive mind to convince the unbelievers that he will do the cutting with his own hands.

Dr Silber makes two claims as a philosopher. The first is that it is hard to pull the wool over his eyes; the second is that he has a clear grip of purpose and priority. Some of America's troubles stem from a simple failure to grasp the real difficulties of democracy, he claims. So, in addition to the precepts of Kant, he likes to cite

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United States. The 25-kopek stamp featured the cosy marine scene of sea-otters, dolphins, and sea lions.

I'll swap you a dolphin and two otters for a mole

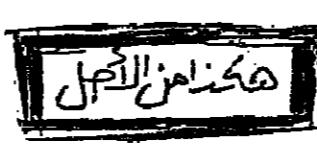
Nature, red

The National Trust is seeking revenge on the Open Spaces Society, the country's oldest national conservation body, for having the temerity to call the Trust an "elitist" organisation devoted to the protection of a prize collection of dinosaurs. Rodney Legg, chairman of Open Spaces, made the remarks last week at a lecture organised and paid for by the National Trust to mark the society's 125th anniversary.

The Trust's fury about the criticism aired in the ornate surroundings of the Great Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, was compounded when it was reported on the front page of *The Times* the next day. Now the Trust has sent a letter to Open Spaces asking it to share the cost of the lecture.

Warren Davis, press and public relations manager of the National Trust, wrote complaining about the loss of £345, the cost of booking the hall. "In the circumstances I wonder if Open Spaces Society is likely to consider making a contribution towards the deficit?"

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the society, retorted: "We are not going to be making a contribution. The Trust never asked for one before the meeting. They are obviously still sore at the criticism. I cannot understand why. When did they last make the front page of *The Times*?"





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

SIR GEOFFREY RESIGNS

The departure of Sir Geoffrey Howe from the government removes from high office the last of Margaret Thatcher's original cabinet of 1979. While his going has been on the cards since his dismissal from the Foreign Office last year, the break remains a dramatic one for its personal as well as political implications. Mrs Thatcher may tower over her party as she tows over all the surveys. But her tower is an ever more lonely one.

Sir Geoffrey was a closet Thatcherite even before Mrs Thatcher arrived to lead her name to free-market Toryism. His legal rigour underpinned the supply side reforms first plotted by Edward Heath and his "Selston" comrades in 1969-70. He fought, and failed, to achieve trade union reform in the early 1970s. He then emerged as the progenitor of a (relatively) ruthless monetarist as Mrs Thatcher's economic right-hand man.

As Chancellor of the Exchequer throughout her first administration, he was, even more than the prime minister, the architect of the deflationary policies that were intended, alongside supply side reform, to "shake out" inefficiency and uncompetitiveness from British industry. His 1981 budget, an event of Crippsian severity, brought his leader close to political catastrophe by the end of that year. But she was rescued by the Falklands war and the cautious pre-election inflation of 1983. Mrs Thatcher was often wiser than Sir Geoffrey at this time. He was the archetypal dry. These were years of Howism, not Thatcherism.

So why could she not keep him aboard? Why, even after he went native at the Foreign Office, could she not handle so intellectually sympathetic a colleague? The answer, like so much in politics, lies deep in the personalities of individuals. At the Foreign Office, Mrs Thatcher found Sir Geoffrey not only a focus of disagreement over Europe but, like Francis Pym before him, a weak defender of his position. He irritated her to the point where she simply could not have him across the table, and banished him, with considerable inaptitude, to the leadership of the House. He sadly confirmed her prejudices by an undignified, and for him an uncharacteristic, squabble over titles and accommodation.

For a time it appeared that Sir Geoffrey and his old friend, Douglas Hurd, might form a

fifth column within the cabinet, a cabal of Tory moderates on the wilder shores of Thatcherism, perhaps even with Nigel Lawson as a closet ally. Mrs Thatcher's effective dismissal of Mr Lawson during the Alan Walters affair paid off to such hopes. Now Sir Geoffrey too has gone, pleading his unhappiness with her performance on EC union in Rome. Mrs Thatcher has never been good at man-management. Now her inability to pat a back and squeeze an arm when such coaxing might save her much trouble has landed her with yet another cabinet crisis.

She will survive it. If Sir Geoffrey believes he can precipitate a leadership election this month with the reopening of parliament, he must surely be mistaken. The Conservative party may be in electoral difficulty, but it is unlikely to tear itself apart just now. The Rome summit was an aberration, a cynical charade. Another summit next month is in the offing, and is likely to yield a less belligerent outcome.

Undoubtedly the Europe issue is dividing the party. But it is not another tariff reform, nor another appeasement. The debate is over degrees of sovereignty, subsidiarity, even just the mood music of European co-operation. Undoubtedly Sir Geoffrey has found Mrs Thatcher's tone of voice intolerable. He has become a flag-waver for the pro-unionists. He feels he has a cause to which he wishes to attach his name.

But he is not going to be the next leader of the Conservative party. Nor is it likely that a stalking horse for the most plausible "European" candidate, Michael Heseltine, will run in the next few days. If that stalking horse is Sir Geoffrey himself it will surely end in tears.

The Conservatives tacitly accepted, six months ago, that they would fight the next election under Mrs Thatcher's leadership. As she showed in the House of Commons this week, that leadership remains robust, unchallenged and unchallenged. The next generation of Tory leaders are certainly in waiting, but they are waiting within the cabinet, not outside it. Sir Geoffrey's going is sad. He has been a figure of competent reassurance, liberal, sensitive, balanced, the best sort of British politician. But he has departed. And she is still there.

MORALS OF DIVORCE

Any proposal to improve the legal pathway through divorce is likely to be accused of encouraging a moral and social evil. The Law Commission's suggested reforms to the divorce law, published yesterday, will not escape that charge. But the analysis is false. Divorce is the way out of a breakdown in a marriage. It offers a legal means of relief from personal stress and unhappiness whose origins lie beyond the reach of law. The provision of that relief as painlessly as possible is a public benefit, not something to be deplored as undermining morality.

What is required of a good divorce law, as the Law Commission has realised, is that it should offer fair and peaceful arbitration between the parties, including any children, where interests conflict. An attempt to use the law to bolster an idealised pattern of lifelong marriage would be both unproductive and a source of further misery. The existing divorce law, with its hollow requirement that the breakdown of marriage should first have to be "proved" to the technical satisfaction of a court, is a relic of a former assumption in divorce law that it is a proper and feasible function of the law to keep a marriage alive.

The commission's most important proposal is that there should be a standard 12-month delay for "consideration and reflection". In other words, divorce would require a year's notice. This interval would greatly increase the scope for conciliation, not only to see if the marriage were healable but also to provide a friendly rather than an adversarial context for settling property, maintenance, custody and access disputes. Experience has shown that such "divorce guidance counselling" greatly improves the chances of a successful outcome, not least for any children. Many a divorce turns sour only when lawyers start treating it as a battlefield.

If the courts can accept that one party has

behaved "unreasonably" simply on the assertion of the other, as now happens with so-called "quicke" divorce, it is no great extra step to accept the assertion of one party or the other that the marriage has ended, subject only to the passage of time for due reflection. In this respect the Law Commission's reforms amount to "divorce on demand", but that is the way the law has been tacitly operated for years in the great majority of cases. This corresponds to the reality of marriage in modern secular society: where a relationship of personal affection no longer exists the law should not pretend it does. There is nothing to stop those with a different view of marriage applying it to themselves.

The Law Commission's proposals should be acceptable to government and parliament because they satisfy the only test that should apply in this area, namely that the law should be abreast of human behaviour, describing rather than prescribing. There is little a concerned government can do to fortify marriages so that they break down less often, though the plea of the marriage counselling service Relate for more public funds to support conciliation points to one direction where a stitch in time can save more than nine. A marriage saved by counselling is far cheaper for the state than looking after the fragmented parts of a family after breakdown.

Divorce was once heavily stigmatised, and all but closed to any but the very rich. The stigma has largely departed, but its memory still affects public debate in the unthinkingly punitive assumption that divorce ought to be painful to the parties. Divorce should never be casual — any more than marriage — and should avoid excessive hurt to those involved. The Law Commission's proposals acknowledge this. They indicate the rational and realistic direction in which the law should move.

FOR WHOM THE ROAD TOLLS?

In the late 17th century, when road pricing was first introduced to Britain, a barrier of spears or pikes set up across a road gave its name to the turnpike. Horsemen were not allowed to pass without paying a toll. The system lasted less than 200 years, and so enraged those who could not afford to pay that there was eventually an uprising against tolls in the Rebecca riots of 1843 in South Wales. More recently, Oslo commuters have fire-bombed the new toll-booths erected to charge drivers for access to the city centre. Undaunted, the government will next week announce a bill to allow private companies to build toll roads and bridges alongside the existing British road network. This too will be misconceived.

When the Conservatives came to power, there were 184 million vehicles on the road. Now there are more than 24 million. Road traffic is forecast to rise by between 83 and 142 per cent by 2025, presumably if price and congestion are not used to stop it. Environmentalists say that building new roads will simply increase still further the volume of traffic. None the less, the government is determined to stimulate demand by its £17 billion road-building programme. The new bill will enable some of these roads to be built and operated by the private sector.

The purpose is to transfer the risk of cost overruns from the taxpayer to the private company. In return for building the road, the company will be allowed to levy tolls to the road users. Already ten such schemes are planned, including a second Severn crossing, a relief road to the north of Birmingham and a motorway link between the M25 and Chelmsford.

What kind of risk does the government

envision? The pressure on the government to rescue an abandoned road project would be irresistible. The government believes that private companies will bring more efficient management techniques to the road business than bureaucrats. Yet a tollbooth is a tollbooth. If the transport department merely wants to concentrate the private companies' minds on costs, it could put its own roadbuilding projects out to tender and enforce an absolute cash limit on the winner.

The most persuasive argument against private roads is that they are not really private at all, except in the cost of their finance. The government can borrow long-term for 11½ per cent; Taylor Woodrow would be lucky to get away with 13 per cent and similar projects tend to require a 20 per cent yield. Bankers will rightly be sceptical about recouping their capital and will expect correspondingly higher prices. Tolls work in sparsely populated countries such as America, where motorway exits are about 20 miles apart, and where there are few alternative free routes on offer. Even in France, many private road operators have gone bankrupt and have had to be nationalised. In densely-populated Britain, which already has a closely-woven cobweb of roads, the private operators will face both competition from free roads, and the expense of setting up toll stations every few miles.

Roads require the most meticulous preparation, involving issues of compulsory purchase and public enquiry way beyond the resources of most private organisations. If the government really wants toll roads in Britain, as a form of marginal pricing of long-distance travel, then it should pay for them itself and keep the profit.

Identity of the 'Fifth Man'

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster
Sir, Mr Chapman Pincher (October 29) is of course right to say that details of John Cairncross's recruitment as a Soviet agent and of his activities in that role have been familiar for many years — even without the help of Mr Pincher's books and Mr Peter Wright — to any one who is knowledgeable in this field.

What will be new to many is the fact, now confirmed by Mr Gordievsky, that Cairncross was regarded by the KGB as one of "the magnificent five".

Since "the five" were always a KGB category, Mr Gordievsky's testimony on this point carries great weight. Four were identified beyond a peradventure — Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Blunt; but as seen from here Cairncross has hitherto been only one of several possible candidates for the final name to make up the total number.

The effect of Mr Gordievsky's testimony is that Cairncross must now be regarded as by far the most likely candidate for the last of the five to be clearly identified — though not for that reason necessarily the least valuable to his masters.

Mr Pincher also fairly suggests that "Cairncross has no relevance in the Hollis case". What he does not point out is that what Mr Gordievsky's testimony has done is virtually to destroy the case for thinking that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent — a case that Mr Pincher deployed in the two books to which he refers but which was always stronger in the ingenious imagination of Mr Wright than in reality.

It is too late to make amends to Sir Roger Hollis himself, but in justice to the good name of a loyal public servant and for the sake of his family I hope that we have now heard the last of this damaging but, as I believe, unsustainable allegation.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
House of Lords.
October 30.

M3 extension

From Mr J. R. Lucas, FBA
Sir, Mr Justice McCullough's judgment against the Winchester protesters (report, October 27) was in part based on a narrow point of law, that the 1988 EC directive did not apply to Ministry's proposals because they were "already in the pipeline".

Whatever the merits of that as a legal argument, it surely would give the lie to the government's professed concern for the environment if it presses ahead with the scheme without making an environmental impact assessment.

The road would go through an area of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest: it is exactly the sort of case where such an assessment ought to be made. The minister's decision in fact to have one will be a clear indication of whether he is the minister for the environment or the minister against it.

Yours etc.
J. R. LUCAS,
Merton College,
Oxford.
October 27.

Burial at sea

From the Reverend R. J. Lowe, RN (ret'd)
Sir, Regarding your report, "Sea burials float back" (October 29): until the first years of World War Two HM Ships carried a supply of iron cannon balls. When a casualty was sewn into his hammock for burial at sea two or three of these cannon balls were sewn in with him to ensure that he remained asleep in the deep.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. LOWE,
75 Conifer Crest,
Wash Common,
Newbury, Berkshire.
October 29.

In defence of bards

From Mrs J. Graham-Jones
Sir, Under Word Watching today (October 25) the definition of Gorsedd, more correctly, the Gorsedd of Bards of the Isle of Britain (i.e., Great Britain) reads: "a meeting of daf, anachronistic bards and druids in Wales . . .".

The 1,500 Welsh bards, highly skilled in the literary arts of their language, come from all walks of life: all the professions including bishops, judges and professors, farmworkers and landowners, business people and tradesmen. Their flowing robes are symbolic of equality in their own language. "Daf" they are not.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH GRAHAM-JONES,
Hendre, 9 St Anthony's Way,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Control of 'pest' birds

From Mr Anthony Boosey
Sir, The European Commission has persuaded the British government to consider changing the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in order to conform with the EC 1979 Birds Directive. Under this proposal the 13 species of birds at present listed in Part II of Schedule 2 of the Act, namely crow, collared dove, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, jackdaw, jay, magpie, feral pigeon, rook, house sparrow, starling and woodpigeon would be transferred to Part I of the Schedule.

This would mean that farmers, gamekeepers, gardeners and anyone else wishing to control these so-called "pest" or "opportunist" birds on their land would have to obtain an annual licence to kill them. These licences would be issued by the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in England and their equivalents Scottish and Welsh ministries.

It is hard to reconcile this proposed change in the law to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UK role in future of Community

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, Michael Binyon's analysis ("British vision of EC future under scrutiny in Rome talks", October 27) of the European Commission's report on its proposed amendment to the European treaty and staff regulations — not "civil servants" — is bound to "carry out his duties and conduct himself solely with the interests of the Communities in mind; he shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, authority, organisation or person outside his organisation", according to the staff regulations.

To imply, as the report does, that an official of British origin might provide influence on behalf of his own government is as inaccurate and improper as to suggest that a British civil servant might provide influence in Whitehall on behalf of any political party to which he may belong.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. K. TITTER.
The Old Bakery,
Heol y Bont,
Cydewi, Dyfed.
October 28.

From Mr John S. N. Drew

Sir, There is indeed concern in the European Commission about the number of successful British applicants for posts in the European Community institutions. Your report, while pointing to the problem, does not mention the steps which are being taken to remedy it.

The commission is to organise two general entry competitions which will be published in January 1991 and September 1992. In addition, there has been a recruitment consultant working in these offices during the last year helping to brief those interested in a career in the European Community institutions. The post has been established in close cooperation with the European Staffing Unit of the Cabinet Office.

As a result of this increasing support to publicise careers in the European Community, I am pleased to say that the number of enquires to these offices by potential applicants for Community posts has increased during the last year by several hundred per cent. Your report rightly points out that candidates for the current legal administrators' competition need to apply before November 9. From this office alone over 500 application forms have already been dispatched for this competition, which is a manifold increase on previous competitions.

Yours etc.,
JOHN DREW
(Head of UK offices),
Commission of the European Communities,
Jean Monnet House,
8 Storey's Gate, SW1.
October 25.

Gulf build-up

From the Reverend Dr Kenneth G. Greet

Sir, I have returned from several weeks in the USA thanking God for the growing resistance, especially in the churches, to the military build-up in the Gulf. That resistance arises from the recognition that war initiated by the United States is an awful possibility.

The publicly expressed view that such a war would "restore American glory" is abhorrent, and the notion that it would be a great moral crusade is a naive delusion. Any attempt by Christians to bring such an initiative within the traditional definition of just war is an exercise in self-delusion. It would only compound the evil done by Saddam Hussein, evil rendered potent by the fact that the West has armed him to the teeth.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH GREET (President, World Disarmament Campaign), Redcroft, 89 Broadmarket Lane, Rustington, West Sussex. October 29.

Cycling in Cambridge

From Mr J. V. Tyson

Sir, The plans of Cambridge City Council to ban bicycles from parts of the city during the day (report, October 18) constitute a most unwelcome blow to the cycling community, for wildly ridden crooked bicycles in profusion are as much a part of the genuine essence of Cambridge as the punts or the May Bells or the bookshops or the top-hatted choristers of King's College.

Cyclists wishing to pass through the banned triangle of streets will now have to walk with their machines, thereby occupying a bigger horizontal space for a longer time and adding to the hazards of the crowded and narrow streets.

It would surely be less injurious to the fundamental life of the city to exclude motor traffic from the streets in question. Cambridge is, above all, for scholarship, and that cannot flourish if the efficient transportation of undergraduates is impeded.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART REUBEN,
11 Haversham Close,
Cambridge Park,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.
October 22.

This would mean that farmers,

gamekeepers, gardeners and anyone else wishing to control these so-called "pest" or "opportunist" birds on their land would have to obtain an annual licence to kill them. These licences would be issued by the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in England and their equivalents Scottish and Welsh ministries.

It is hard to reconcile this proposed change in the law to

protect these largely resident native British birds with the appalling Italian law which permits shooters to trespass with impunity when in pursuit of migrant songbirds. The European Commission must be persuaded to change their flawed legislation and the British government should be prepared to use their veto if necessary.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BOOSEY
(Vice President),
Hawk and Owl Trust,
c/o Bird of Prey Section,
Zoological Society of London,
Regents Park, NW1.
(071) 782 5046.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Child benefit and multiple births

From Dr Elizabeth Bryan

Sir, Where the "first born" is not a single child but twins or triplets should not the mother receive the premium for all the children (report, October 25)?

A first-time mother, faced with caring for two or more babies rather than one, will be under far greater strains, emotional, physical or financial. She cannot benefit from the "hand-down" system since she must have two or three sets of everything from the start.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 1: Her Excellency Senor Antonio Espinoza was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Paraguay to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy: Senora Graciela Scorta de Jaurequi (First Secretary).

Senora Espinoza was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Lynton Noel was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to Grenada.

Mr Noel was received by Her Majesty.

Miss Justice Bracewell was received by The Queen upon her appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Queen, Patron, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon opened the new development of the Edward VII's Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes Founder).

Having been received by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach (Chairman of the Council) and Mr E. W. Wright (Chairman, Executive Committee), Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, toured the Hospital and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Lady Farnham, Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Stewart Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, this morning chaired a meeting of the Regimental Council at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness attended a dinner to mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Warrant Holders Association at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne (Lord in Waiting) was present at Gatwick Airport, London this morning upon the departure of the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, for Bermuda and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this evening upon the departure of Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, and the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy for Hong Kong and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Duchess of York this morning visited Trinity Hospice, Clapham, London, and was received by the Mayor of Lambeth (Councillor George Huish).

Miss Lucy Manners was in attendance.

The Prince Edward this evening attended the charity premiere of *Bullseye* at the Odeon.

Leicester Square in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Variety Club of Great Britain.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

This afternoon The Princess Royal returned from Moncton, Canada.

In the evening Her Royal Highness attended the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association Reunion Dinner at the Cafe Royal, 68 Regent Street, London.

Mr Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Society of Antiquaries of London at Burlington House.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 1: The Prince of Wales received Mr Jim Hodkinson at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received Miss Patricia Rawlings, MBE, at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales received the Secretary of State for Wales (the Right Hon. David Hunt, MP) at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received Mr Peter Westmacott in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, left Gatwick Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of British Airways to visit Bermuda.

Her Royal Highness was received at the Airport by Major-General J. C. Cowley (Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex), Sir Donald Logan (representative of the Secretary of State for Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs), Mr Ian Hamilton (Operations Director, Gatwick Airport Limited) and Captain Jack Jessop (Director, British Airways).

Lady Aird and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 1: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, this morning was present at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 1: Princess Alexandra, Honorary Commandant General of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, and Sir Angus Ogilvy left Heathrow Airport, London this evening to visit Hong Kong.

On arrival at the Airport, Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy were received by Mr John Yaxley (Hong Kong Commissioner), Sir Donald Logan (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), Captain Colin Barnes (Director of Flight Crew, British Airways) and Mr Robin Baxendale (Manager, Special Facilities, Heathrow Airport Limited).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, for Bermuda and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy on behalf of Her Majesty.

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William French Smith, Attorney General of the United States from 1981 to 1985, died of cancer in Los Angeles on October 29 aged 73. He was born in Wilton, New Hampshire, on August 26, 1917.

AS PRESIDENT Reagan's first attorney general William French Smith was the author of some radical changes in federal policy on matters such as civil rights, criminal justice and corporate mergers. His courteous demeanour and undemonstrative appearance made him appear the quintessential gentlemanly product of the Harvard Law School which had produced him. But these exterior attributes masked a tough mentality which went hand in hand with dispassionate, almost clinical methods of proceeding. His determination to get his way, once called to office by President Reagan, took many in Washington by surprise. As attorney general Smith presided over a broadly conservative thrust in legislation which angered racial minorities, opposing as he did such deeply enshrined practices as the mandatory use of racial hiring quotas, preferring instead to try to find other ways of combating discrimination in the workplace. He was also in the forefront of the battle against drugs, using the armed forces in a manner from which previous administrations had shrank.

William French Smith had known Ronald Reagan from his days as his personal lawyer when Reagan was governor of California. Smith, a member of an old New England family, grew up in Boston but went West to California, taking a degree at Berkeley before returning east to qualify in law at Harvard Law School. During the second world war he served in the military and organisational skills of the group were decisive in the

return to California to join a law firm in Los Angeles and there in the early 1960s he met Ronald Reagan who was supporting the presidential candidacy of Senator Barry Goldwater.

With other like-minded and wealthy Californian Republicans he decided to persuade Reagan to run for the governorship of California and the influence and organisational skills of the group were decisive in the

success of Reagan's campaign in 1966. During the period of the Reagan governorship the group remained as his financial and legal advisers. Ronald Reagan reputedly relied so heavily on his friend's wise counsel during his governorship that advisers used to say he made no move without asking "Has this been cleared with Bill Smith?" When Reagan arrived in the White House in 1980 he rewarded his

valuable aide with the post of 74th Attorney General of the United States.

When he arrived in Washington in 1981 as "chairman" of Ronald Reagan's so-called kitchen cabinet of Californians William French Smith had his critics. He surprised Congress with his apparent lack of knowledge of some of the justice department's responsibilities. But these gaps in political knowledge were easily repairable (and, indeed, swiftly repaired) and more

than compensated for by a legal brain which even those who did not agree with him acknowledged as being an instrument which functioned impeccably, especially in the sphere of corporate legislation. Smith was the prime instrument of that tide of legislation of a conservative thrust which marked the early years of the Reagan presidency. It ranged over a variety of topics such as the reinforcement of a system of secrecy oaths, the reassessment of previous rulings on abortion and the reversal of some of the more liberal positions on human rights. He also espoused a more laissez faire attitude to anti-trust law: "Bigness in business does not necessarily mean badness," he asserted in his first year of office. But in spite of the bad odour in which he stood on account of many of his civil rights rulings, particularly with women's groups for his approach to abortion, he was by no means an out-and-out conservative and played a major role in Sandra Day O'Connor to be the first woman justice appointed to the Supreme Court. His zeal in the war against drugs brought him an international reputation. He made several journeys outside America to law enforcement and legal authorities.

Smith was criticised when it emerged that he had accepted a \$30,000 (£25,000) severance fee from a Californian company for legal work he performed before taking up his Washington post. He later returned the money and a Justice Department inquiry ended in 1982 without finding he had broken any rules.

He resigned his post in 1984, but stayed on a further year because of a delay in appointing a successor.

He leaves a widow, Jean, three sons and a daughter.

THE REV CANON REGINALD BAZIRE

The Rev Canon Reginald Victor Bazire, archdeacon of Wandsorth, and former missionary, died in Bath on October 20, aged 90. He was born on January 30, 1900.

REGINALD Bazire faced danger and deprivation as a missionary in China, overcoming extraordinary vicissitudes. Three times he lost everything he had. He was shot at by bandits, caught typhoid and with his family was interned by the Japanese, returning to London penniless. Yet he picked himself up to serve eventually as archdeacon first of Southwark and then of Wandsorth.

Born in Southwark he was brought up in South London. His background was neither church orientated nor particu-

larly devout. Workshop College gave him a delight in the beauty of worship; Christ's Hospital virtually immunised him against it. While working unhappily as an insurance clerk, he changed upon missionary work which his cousin Jack was doing in the slums of Bermondsey. This changed his life and he offered himself to the China Inland Mission (CIM).

His first posting was to Shanghai, followed by Chefoo in North East China and then the central western province of Szechuan. Now he experienced first hand the cost of discipleship, losing all his possessions, through bandits (1926), the Communist long march (1935) and the second world war. The CIM stipulated that

wives, too, must be missionaries. In 1926 Eileen Brown had arrived at CIM headquarters in Shanghai to complete her training and the following year she married Reg Bazire. Two months later Bazire was made deacon and in 1929 priest. They were among the 1,000 missionaries in 300-400 CIM stations all over China, serving first in Nanpu and then from 1932 to 1935 in Pingwu near the Tibetan border. Eileen recalled that during those years she never saw another white woman: life was as it had been for 1,000 years. The nearest western doctor was eight days journey away, and Bazire often walked 30 miles a day over dangerous terrain.

When the Communists advanced in 1935, Reg and

Eileen and their two sons, Theo and Peter, had to flee. Because the situation was so perilous it was decided that Eileen would take the boys to the missionary school in Chefoo, while Reg would return inland and tour the regions devastated by the long march. While seeing the ravages of that horror he contracted typhoid. Meanwhile, Eileen had made herself so indispensable at Chefoo that the CIM told him to join her.

During the next few years he taught at Chefoo before he and the family were interned in 1942 and joined 1,500 prisoners in Wei-Hsien internment camp in 1943 in the Shantung Peninsula. Eric Liddell (depicted in *Chariots of Fire*) was among the prisoners. Every internee had to

play his part in running the camp. Bazire was successively stoker, cobbler, baker and headmaster of a school for the children of prisoners.

In December 1945 the Bazires returned to London penniless. He became a part-time curate while Eileen returned to teaching music. In 1949 he became vicar of St Barnabas, Clapham Common, then rural dean of Battersea in 1953, and 13 years later archdeacon of Southwark (1967-1973) and archdeacon of Wandsorth (1973-1975).

As chairman of the diocesan board of finance from 1961 to 1975 Bazire enabled Southwark to change from being one of the poorest to being one of the most giving.

He leaves two sons.

CRAIG RUSSELL
Craig Russell, Canadian transvestite actor, died in Toronto on October 31 aged 42. He was suffering from complications following the onset of Aids.

CRAIG RUSSELL
Craig Russell was best known internationally for his starring role in the film *Outrageous* (1977), a sort of gay *Star is Born* which chronicled with lethal unsentimentality the chequered career of a Toronto hairdresser whose spare time is devoted to sequins and feathers and the imitation of Bette Davis. When his double life becomes uncomfortably singular, he ups stakes and heads off for New York and the big time as a professional drag artiste. In general outline, the film had autobiographical overtones: Russell, too, began as an amateur in his native Toronto and became a successful professional in the States. At this time the gay and transvestite theatre was being opened up by Charles Ludlam, Harvey Weinstein and Charles Pearce, among others.

Russell had probably the best training a growing drag artiste could have experienced, under the wing of Mae West, whose attention he attracted when young through his shameless adulation. He soon became her part-time secretary and protégé. Mae West apparently liked the way he wore her clothes, and enjoyed his speed and wit in picking up all she could teach him about creating and exploiting feminine stereotypes. He soon made his way as a female impersonator and stand-up comedian in American cabaret, playing as time went on to a wider and wider audience. Unlike so many comics of his genre, he was

very fast and funny. He was always accompanied on tour by his mother and seemed to enjoy a much more stable family background than the character he played in *Outrageous*. Ten years after that film he appeared in a sequel, *Too Outrageous*, which unfortunately was far from repeating the success of the first. It was difficult, after a decade overshadowed by AIDS, to pretend that the first fine careless rapture could be so readily maintained.

Dinners

Royal Warrant Holders Association

The Duke of Edinburgh was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Royal Warrant Holders Association held last night at Grosvenor House to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the association. Mr Barry Austin Reed, president, was in the chair. The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine and Mr Bryan Toye, vice-president, also spoke.

Mr Brian McDonnell, chief executive of the Tote, was a member of the Horse Race Totalisator Board (The Tote) from November 1.

Ms Barbara Young, general manager of the Parkside health authority in London, was to be chief executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Mr William Webb, deputy director, to be acting director of the London College of Music, from January 1, in succession to Mr John McCabe.

Mr C.M. Stanford Northcote and Miss L.P. Willard.

The engagement is announced between Martin Charles, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs R.N. Gunn, of Elston, Nottinghamshire, and Lucy, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs P. Williams, of Stoke Trister, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

Mr A.J. Rolfe and Miss J.V. Gunn.

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs K.F. Gardner, of Kentish Town, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.N. Gunn, of Elston, Nottinghamshire.

Mr D.S. Sinclair and Miss H.R. Page.

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Neil Sinclair, of Wimbledon, London, and Helen, only daughter of the late Mr Max Page and of Mrs Page of Walthamstow, London.

Mr M.C. Stanford Northcote and Miss L.P. Willard.

The engagement is announced between Martin Charles, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs R.N. Gunn, of Elston, Nottinghamshire, and Lucy, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs P. Williams, of Stoke Trister, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

Mr J. H. Hayard and Miss E.G. O'Halloran.

The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr and Mrs Joseph Hayard, of Adelaide, South Australia, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Halloran, of Littleworth, Farnham, Middlesex.

Mr P.M. Gelernter and Miss L.J. Morris.

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr David Gelernter and of Mrs Jeanne Canning, and Linda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Halloran, of Littleworth, Farnham, Middlesex.

Mr R.J. Booth and Miss J.M. Jackson.

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Booth, of Master Weaver's House, Deddham, Essex, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jackson, of Charlton Hall, Herefordshire, Cambridgeshire.

Mr S.B. and Miss C. Smith.

The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Boxall, of Bishopston, Bristol, and Gillian, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Keith Smith, of Tilsham, Salisbury.

Mr M.H. Bradley and Miss E.M. Waters.

The engagement is announced between Malcolm, only son of Mr Hazel Bradley, of East Preston, West Sussex, and the late Mr Trevor Bradley, and Hazel, daughter of Dr and Mrs W.H. Waters, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. and Mrs A. Whitaker.

The engagement is announced between Philippe, Georges Michel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edgar Leuchs, of Chelwood Gate, Sussex, and Amorette, younger daughter of Coloured and Mrs David Whitaker, of The Dower House, Chawton, Hampshire.

Mr E. de C. Bryant and Miss J.P. Hailes.

The engagement is announced between Edward, youngest son of Mr E.J. and Mrs S. de Courcy Bryant, of Stradishall, Suffolk, and Julia, youngest daughter of Mr J.M.H. and Mrs M.C. Hailes, of Chiselborough, Somerset.

Mr R.J. Leuchs and Miss C.D. Hutton.

The engagement is announced between Richard Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Edgar Leuchs, of Chel

Where good Muslims are true Brits

Five years after living in Bradford, Dervla Murphy returns to find a pre-election community rooted in tolerance

The imam — in his late thirties, stocky and dignified — had a firm handshake, a soft voice, a glossy, black beard and clear, green eyes that looked straight at you all the time. Doubt flickered over his face as I removed my shoes in the narrow hallway, with lamentable lack of foresight, I had travelled to Bradford wearing holey socks which clearly contradicted his image of a representative of *The Times*. However, that momentary doubt did not prevent our soon establishing a genuine rapport, relaxing on floor cushions in the parlour with a tea-tray between us.

It might seem odd that a "liberal" western writer should find herself at ease with Liqquat Hussain, one of the architects of the "anti-Rushdie" campaign in Britain. Obviously, our two-hour conversation could not have occurred if this shorthand phrase were accurate; the encounter was curiously moving — and reassuring. I knew myself to be in the presence of a good man, though the cultural chasm between us could never be bridged. From my side, despite the width of that chasm, I recognised integrity.

Twenty-seven years ago, as a young woman, I travelled alone through Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan and Pakistan. During that five-month journey I benefited daily from two of Islam's most admirable qualities: its elaborate code of hospitality, incorporating a scrupulous sense of honour, and its tolerance and flexibility when it is not being threatened or abused. As a western woman doing her own thing — which, if done by any Muslim woman, would have seemed outrageously reprehensible — I was everywhere courteously accepted. This tradition of tolerance is common in Muslim societies untainted by what we call "fundamentalism", a form of fanaticism whose roots are more often political than religious. It helps to explain the hurt and disillusionment with which Britain's Muslims react to British



Mean streets, generous spirits: the people of areas such as this feel British, have proved themselves hard-working and law-abiding — and they expect to be listened to when they appeal for consideration

intolerance — and then, justifiably fearing threatened, allow their own tolerance to dwindle.

The imam was optimistic when we turned from recent troubles (still present, alas, for poor Salman Rushdie) to the future of Bradford's Muslims. "We are industrious, confident, intelligent. We don't think we are superior to others, but we do have self-esteem. Our people will change some of their minor customs, as they are doing also in Pakistan, but most will remain good Muslims." The Rushdie conflict, he suggested, had made young Muslims more

aware of their duty to preserve and defend their cultural identity. And, in response to relentless discrimination, they are becoming more independent-minded and stoical, no longer hoping for equal treatment, wasting less energy on resenting prejudice. Graduates who could not find jobs to match their degrees are going into commerce. He estimated that West Yorkshire can boast 100 Pakistani millionaires, all of whom started from the poverty line.

The great majority of Bradford's Asians are Mipuris, who for many years clung to "the myth of

return". Now, consciously or unconsciously, they are busy defining and establishing themselves as British Muslims. And this sense of belonging in Britain — the imam explained — contributed to the vehemence of their generation's contribution to the "anti-Rushdie" campaign. A group of temporary migrant workers, firmly rooted elsewhere, might have been able to shrug off British indifference to their being wounded by the blasphemy they perceived (or were told existed) in "that book". A group that now feels British, and has proved itself

hard-working and law-abiding, listened to when it appeals for the sort of consideration that is accorded to its white Christian fellow citizens.

Akbar and Hussain are "average" representatives of the Bradford-born, habitually English-speaking generation; their parents arrived in the Birmingham area in 1962. They had been children when last I met them; now they are strapping moustachioed young men who recalled their memories of the anti-Rushdie demonstrations and what an emotional relief it was to see "that book" being burnt. (Most 16-year-olds enjoy such dramas, whatever their genesis.) At first, the natural British reaction to that event merely exacerbated their hostility. Then, initially as part of an adolescent rebellion phase, they tried to view the whole tragic controversy from the "liberal" point of view. And although they had not come around to agreeing with it — a psychological impossibility, given their Islamic conditioning — they did now see it, surprisingly clearly.

"Muslims are not as prejudiced as whites," Hussain said. "No one will admit it in public, but some of us kids learnt a lot about Britain from all the fighting over Rushdie. That will be useful for us. It is bad news the whites can't learn, too..."

The imam thought Rushdie's book had made the young more aware of their duty to defend their culture. A 50-year-old plumber told me: "Bradford's mosque leaders were worried for years, seeing the kids turning modern. All that fuss was a trick to get the whole community marching behind them again. But it won't work. We are all British now, if the mullahs and imams can't see that they will be left behind. What worries us is much worse: race relations and our three lads at the age to be attacked by white gangs — maybe killed... Bradford was bad enough before — we didn't need a Rushdie campaign."

The next day, a local Labour elected representative told me that race relations had not really been damaged. There was only a handful of people involved, he said, and when he was approached he made it clear that the issue of banning a book was not up for discussion — that did not happen in this country. He said, most Muslims accepted this.

Of course, most Muslims did not accept the argument: for one thing it is not true. As Richard Webster notes in his outstanding analysis of the tragedy (*A Brief History of Blasphemy*) an offensive-to-Christians book can be swiftly made unavailable in Britain. In 1967, almost the entire Penguin edition of Sine's *Massacre* was burnt one night by Allen Lane, personally, and the book was reported "out of print" next morning by the Penguin trade department. As Webster comments, Mr Lane was not a

practising Christian himself but many of his friends and book-selling colleagues were and had conveyed to him their strong distaste for the book..."

Wandering about Bradford, my observations suggested that the imam was being over-optimistic about the proportion of young likely to remain "good Muslims". When I met Ambar — aged 22, elegant, poised, thoughtful — in an Asian youth club, I remarked on the startling fact that eight of the 13 notices on the board in the hall were women-related, which would have been unthinkable five years ago. Ambar smiled and gave the V-sign. Muslim relationships with white girls, she explained, were increasingly being found troublesome, leading to cross-cultural tension within the relationship and dissension within the home.

"So more and more young men are thinking, 'Why should we have all these hassles with white girls when there are plenty of lasses in our own community?' But before they can have Muslim girlfriends, we must be freed. That means they are no longer so keen to keep us in our place and some of our brothers are beginning to side with us against parents. Also a few older people, like my own mother, are

beside a Pakistani motor mechanic who smiled at my naive interest in the new Islamic party. He summed up the popular reaction of local Muslims: "We would be mad to vote for them — all fanatics with some crazy English convert standing for them in Bradford North. They will not take enough votes to make any difference to anyone. That's our Raving Lunatics Party!"

The indifference to the by-election seemed odd, given a general seething resentment of the poll tax. Perhaps they have had their fill of politics for the moment. In 1988 a superlatively incompetent Labour-controlled metropolitan council, obsessed by "fringe issues", was replaced by an equally incompetent and Tory-controlled council, known as Mrs Thatcher's northern flagship until it sank this year under the weight of its own iniquities.

Bradford's poll tax, at £276, is exceptionally low but none the less hated for that. It hits the Asian community of extended families particularly hard; an eight-person household, which previously paid hundreds, must now find thousands.

In Underwood, one of three Bradford North wards with an almost 40 per cent Asian population, a former political activist who used to canvass for Labour told me that Muslims were disappointed with the party, which had given them no more support over Rushdie than the Tories. There could be a big swing away from Labour next week, he said, but it would not be noticed with so many Tories voting Labour against the poll tax.

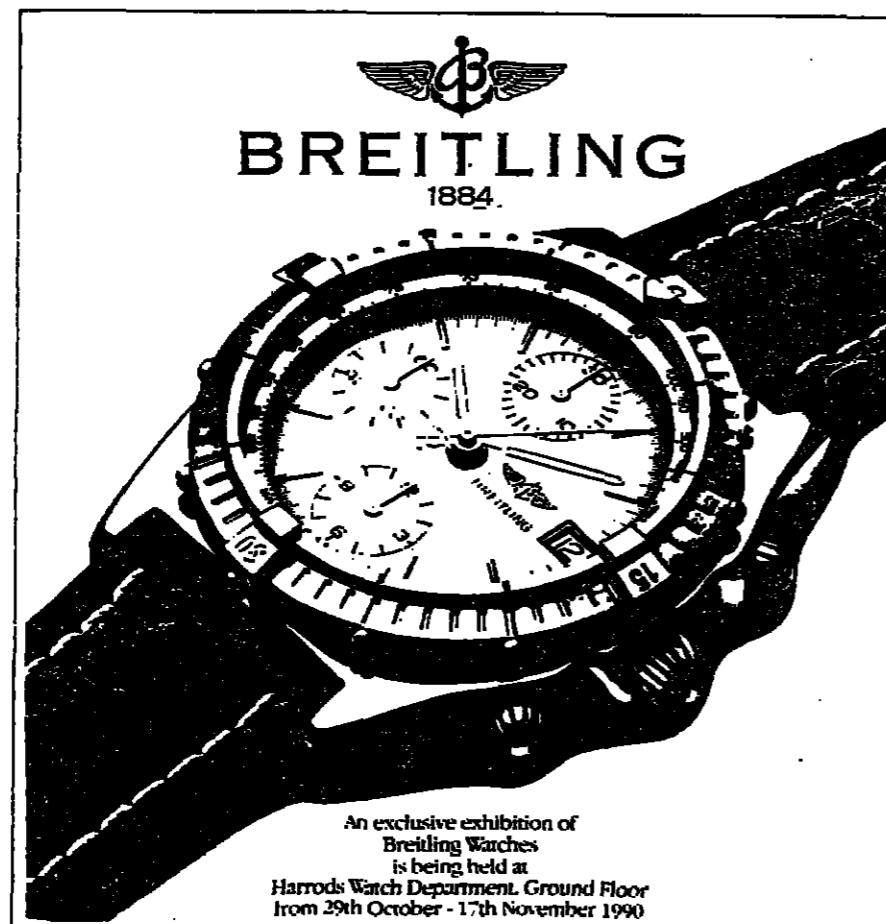
Since 1985, despite the handicap of extremist councils, Bradford has been Bouncing Back as it resolved to do in 1980. Among my several reasons for falling in love with the city, five years ago, was its refusal to be counted out even when it was unmistakably down.

Recently, a big clean-up revealed the long-forgotten fact that Bradford is built of golden sandstone. Now whole areas glow warmly, even under the city's famous lid of Pennine cloud, and on a sunny day the meanest streets look positively festive. Open spaces that I remember strewn with litter and rubble have been planted with grass, flowers, shrubs, saplings — and the residents marvel at how much this has done to raise morale. Skeptics rightly point out that, thus far, the majority of Pakistanis have not benefited from the Bounce Back.

On my way out I passed a plaque commemorating the opening of the club in 1985 that proclaimed: "Here To Stay Here To Fight", betraying the transient influence of the Militant left on some of the club's founder-members.

Most Bradfordians, of all colours, classes and creeds, seemed indifferent to the coming Bradford North by-election — if they were even aware of its imminence, before I mentioned it. On the airport bus into Bradford I sat

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ARTS

GALLERIES

Strokes of forgotten genius

Timely reappraisals of William Coldstream and other neglected painters, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

As the leaves fall, half-forgotten painters rise again. Autumn always seems to be the time for efforts of artistic resuscitation, and this autumn an unusual variety is on offer. Describing William Coldstream as "half-forgotten" may seem odd, but in his latter years he tended to be honoured in vague and general terms, rather than actually viewed. The Tate Gallery's retrospective tribute, three years after his death, certainly corrects this, though whether to the painter's ultimate advantage it is hard to say.

Coldstream was part of that awkward class of artists who are equally famed as teachers and administrators. Enthusiasts tend to complain that their artistic achievements are comparatively neglected. Others wonder if a strong creative urge could be quite so readily sidetracked. Coldstream's case is peculiarly difficult to judge because he was not a prolific painter and he would possibly not have painted much more even if he had the time.

His importance as an influence, first as a leading light of the Euston Road school of urban realists, then as a teacher of distinguished pupils at Camberwell and in a long tenure as Slade professor, is not in dispute. But where does he stand, finally, as an artist in his own right?

The overall effect of the Tate show is oddly dreary. There are undoubtedly moments of wan poetry in the early urban landscapes, and on two memorable occasions the presence of snow to light up the dull suburban scene works wonders. In his war-artist period in Italy a certain trick of leaving paintings to look like works in progress first emerges. One or two clearly are unfinished, but mostly this seems to be a refusal to pontificate in paint.

After the war there are walls full of rather bloodless, unimpassioned nudes, and a group of wilfully open-ended portraits of men of mark. It is all immaculately calculated, beautifully executed, and depressing. In person Coldstream had an engagingly dry humour and was ready to speak his mind. In his painting he comes over as grim and self-effacing.

Even Solomon J. Solomon asserts himself with more dash and individuality. The show of his work at the Ben Uri Gallery seems to be the first since 1946 and



Reclining Figure (1960-81): one of several nudes on show in the Tate Gallery's exhibition of paintings by William Coldstream

might not raise high hopes in advance. All that anybody remembers about him these days is that he was a successful society portraitist in the shadow of Sargent, and that when not portraying the great and the good, he produced large and melodramatic Biblical and legendary scenes, such as Liverpool's bloodthirsty "Samson" of 1887. He encouraged a number of younger Jewish artists of his time (1860-1927), and was also important in the evolution of camouflage techniques.

The Ben Uri show, if not gleaming with originality, is a much more spirited affair than the Coldstream. Solomon enjoyed painting pretty women (often his own family) and imposing men: he really does convey a vivid impression of Asquith at the height of his power. The domestic interiors are crowded with social and artistic information, lovingly observed. The watercolours that he did for his own enjoyment are a fresh and pleasing addition to the English watercolour canon. And somehow there is something more lurking there: the savagery of some of the history pictures and the lushness of the mythical nudes hint at a private man even more

interesting than the urbane public figure he chose to present.

Nobody would call Marevna urbane or self-effacing. It seems particularly improbable that she spent her later years in suburban Ealing, and when one or two of the paintings in the retrospective at the Cooling Gallery allude to the location, the results are so dazzlingly transfigured that the place becomes suddenly irrelevant.

Maria Vorobieva Stebelska, to give her full name, was born in Kazan in 1892, proved to be

something of a juvenile prodigy and packed herself off to Italy at the age of 19, where she was dubbed Marevna ("daughter of the sea") by Maxim Gorky. Next stop Paris, where she was in the centre of a group that included Soutine, Modigliani, Zadkine, Lipschitz and, more dramatically for her, Diego Rivera. She lived with him for several years and he fathered her child, but when he returned to Mexico she stayed on and continued her career.

Given this heady company, she

remained remarkably uninfluenced in her art. Her style, consistently throughout her long career, is a curious mixture of Cubism and Pointillism: she segments her subjects as a good, not-too-rigorous Cubist should, but then fills in with iridescent patterns of coloured dots. Some of the interest resides undeniably in her records of the way life with the painters of *La Ruche* (the title of one of her autobiographical volumes) looked at the time: her thumbnail sketches are vividly funny. But as a painter with her own style and vision she remains unique and still underappreciated.

Albert Houthuizen was born in Amsterdam and died in Denmark Hill. He lived all his adult life in England, and painted through most of it in extreme obscurity, earning a living primarily by teaching, when his health permitted.

Everything began to change in 1961 when, at the age of 58, he was given his first one-man show by the Reid Gallery. His blazing visionary seascapes took the art world by storm: Sir John Rothenstein wrote a book about him; his work sold well and entered many public collections.

Then, after his death in 1979,

he was followed by instant oblivion.

Now, at last, the Mercury

Gallery has put together what in

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Programmed notes

A QUIET revolution may be taking place on the South Bank. Arguments might rage over the wisdom of general director Nicholas Snowman's policies. But there seems a distinct feeling around that late 20th-century music is gaining popularity. Certainly the two concerts given this week by the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Festival Hall) and by the London Sinfonietta (Queen Elizabeth Hall) drew better, and much younger, audiences than expected.

Andrew Davis and the BBC SO have developed an excellent relationship this season, and their programmes have been carefully engineered to suit many tastes. The conservatives here could go home content to have heard Stephen Hough's account at once tenacious and lyrical of Bartók's Third Piano Concerto. Those whose sensibilities extended to the polished, dream-like sensuality of Lutoslawski's *Les espaces du sommeil*, written in 1975, could only have revelled in David Wilson-Johnson's exquisite delivery. The orchestra's contribution, beautifully poised from the beginning, complemented his performance perfectly.

The rest was more massive. Roberto Gerhard's *Concerto for Orchestra* (1965) is a piece which contains too many good ideas.

Gerhard tests his listener's powers of absorption in a highly complex texture; indeed, often the structure seems dangerously fragile. Yet Gerhard's wondrous orchestration gives the work its purposefulness.

Davis conducted a tenacious performance. And in Messiaen's *El respiro resurrección morum*, the BBC SO's woodwind, brass and percussion (dominated by tam-tam, gong and bell) achieved the near-impossible: the Festival Hall for a while became a cathedral. Even this agnostic felt devout.

The following evening, the London Sinfonietta began its "Explorations" series with an evening which focused attention on the ensemble's conductor for the night, the young composer George Benjamin. Early in the evening came *Panorama*, a

high register confident, his singing tone wondrously concentrated. If here he failed to reproduce the atmosphere of that premiere, he came remarkably close: by any standards he is a phenomenal cellist, though he may not be the only one in this country. Watch out for a young man called Richard May, just 23, who with the pianist Michael Dussek gave a fine Purcell Room recital that included Colin Matthews's *Five Duos*, composed for him in 1985.

STEPHEN PETTITT

nothing. A trust controlled all his work that was not in public or private collections, and it became virtually unseeable. Instant fame was followed by instant oblivion.

Now, at last, the Mercury Gallery has put together what in publishing terms would be called a relaunch. The effect is stunning, and his drawings of the clown-figures which haunted him are splendid. But the hitherto unknown seascapes, ablaze with scarlets, oranges and golds, or whipped to a frenzy of poisonous-looking blues and greys, take the breath away. He emerges sublimely undated, and at a time when a selection of Emil Nolde's unforgettable late watercolours is on show at the Whitechapel Art

Gallery, there can be no higher praise than to say that Houthuizen (unconsciously) courts the comparison and emerges from it triumphantly undimmed.

The Paintings of William Coldstream 1908-1987 Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313) Mon-Sat 10-5.30, Sun 2-5.30, until January 6. Solomon J. Solomon RA Ben Uri Art Gallery, 80 Frith Street, W1 (071-437 2852) Mon-Thurs 10-5, Sun 2-5, until November 18. Moreton's Cooling Gallery, 38 Albermarle Street, W1 (071-639 7128) Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1, until November 30. Albert Houthuizen Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, W1 (071-734 7800) Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 10-12.30, until November 24.

The bridge of thighs



Ian Botham: new giant-killing act

about the nearest the British have come to one of those arts colonies which so enlivened Continental art in the early 20th century. Local survivors still keep up the great tradition of Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson, if not at the same level of achievement. Now there is a plan to make a centre for the study of St Ives art in the town itself.

If all goes according to plan, the centre is expected to

comprise another limb of the Tate Gallery, a dramatically situated new building (plans already approved), which will

rely show 40 or 50 relevant works from the Tate's main collection. The idea is timely; now, as usual, all that is missing is the money.

Last chance . . .

THE National Theatre's mobile production of Molière's *Tartuffe* altered the setting from Louis XIV's France to the court of his close contemporary on the other side of the world: the Mogul Emperor, Aurangzeb. The cast is all-Asian and the religious hypocrisy of *Tartuffe* becomes a "faking fakir", a phrase fraught with hazard which the cast manage to get their tongues around without mishap. Jairinder Verma's energetically physical production, much praised, has been touring for much of the year but it must come to an end at Hackney Empire tomorrow (081-985 2424).

Cornish Tate?

WITH at least two generations of distinguished artist inhabitants to its credit, the Cornish seaside town of St Ives is

ALBUM REVIEWS: ROCK AND JAZZ

Deconstructivist blues and creative blacks

Steve Coleman & Five Elements: *Rhythmic People* (Novus PD63092) Jason Rebello: *A Clearer View* (Novus PD74805)

URBAN chaos, rage and violence: they are simmering in the work of the Brooklyn-based alto saxophonist Steve Coleman. All human life — or at least the New York variety — is here.

A player who gives his new album the sub-title "The Resurrection of Creative Black Civilisation" is not going to be interested in pretty ballads about young lovers. Whether Coleman's rhetoric amounts to a worthwhile alternative is still open to question. As on his previous JMT recordings, the packaging and the titles — *The Posse, Dangerous and Neutral Zone* — tend to be more expressive than the music itself.

The ten slabs of street funk offer little respite. Marvin "Smitty" Smith — probably better known as a bop drummer — is probably the star of the session, aided by Reggie Washington's prowling electric bass. Coleman continues



Steve Coleman: resurrected?

to sound like an icier version of his namesake, Ornette.

He is clearly determined to drag jazz out of the conservatory and to take on the challenge from rap artists. If the lyrics on *No Conscience* are anything to go by, it may

not be a battle worth winning: "As we step into the 21st century of seductive sync-synch technology we forget how to laugh."

Very true. However, perhaps it all sounds more persuasive blaring from a car stereo on a ride over the Brooklyn Bridge.

At 19, the British pianist Jason Rebello is already a seasoned campaigner: McCoy Tyner and mid-Sixties Herbie Hancock seem to have been the dominant influences on him. For his debut as a leader, he has veered towards fusion.

Wayne Shorter is the producer on *A Clearer View*. Bearing in mind his recent track record, that may not be a recommendation, but Rebello's compositions are crisp and unfussy. The outstanding moments occur whenever David O'Higgins steps forward for a tenor solo.

CLIVE DAVIS

JAZZ GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 52 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have

sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards

and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

TOM WAITS

A downwardly mobile, latter-day beat-poet whose uniformly excellent recordings shine the spotlight on a host of odd, American low-life characters, Tom Waits remains the ultimate cult hero. Beckoned by a nimble jazz quartet on the live *Nighthawks at the Diner* (1975), he established his persona of the boozy, disillusioned dorkie, with a perpetual "party in his head", propping up the piano in some smoke-filled dive. By the time of *Heartbreakers* and *Vine* (1980) he had moved towards the more abrasive, electric R'n'B sounds of John Lee Hooker and Screamin' Jay Hawkins. From there he evolved the psycho-blues band which has employed to devastating effect on his most distinguished work, *Swordfishtrombones* (1985), *Rain Dogs* (1986) and *Franks Wild Years* (1987). A dramatically taut yet perilously loose musical experience, this outstanding trilogy parades a cast of lost souls in often humorous narratives, barked out in Waits's ramshackle style.

Beat poet: Tom Waits

WHITE SNAKE

With his carefully moussed tangle of curly and preening stage presence, David Coverdale has been the undisputed cock of the White-snake roost since he convened the band in 1978. They quickly forged a hard-rocking reputation with *Ready and Willing* (1980) and *Come and Get It* (1981), but as constantly has the personnel changed around Coverdale that since *Saints and Sinners* (1982), no line-up that has recorded a Whitesnake album has survived intact long enough to tour it. A second generation composite of the original macho-rock vocalists Paul Rodgers and Robert Plant, Coverdale successfully adapted the Seventies blues-rock tradition to the Bon Jovi era with *Whitesnake* (1987), the album which eventually sold 8.5 million copies. By this time, thanks to Coverdale's constant headlining of "name" musicians, Whitesnake had become a virtual Who's Who of heavy rock, a process confirmed recently by the addition of guitarist Steve Vai to the ranks.

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A mildly pleasing bubbly

THEATRE
Bookends
Apollo

THIS is the latest collaboration between Keith Waterhouse and Ned Sherrin, author and director of *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*; but it bears the same relation to their earlier alliance as carbonated water to a bottle of Scotch in the Coach and Horses. It bubbles in a mildly pleasing way, but it has no kick, no sting and little after-effect.

Waterhouse's script is based on Craig Brown's *Marsh Marlowe Letters*, itself a burlesque of the correspondence of Rupert Hart-Davis and his old housemaster, George Lyttelton. The eminent publisher has dwindled into a celebrity-mad social climber, complete with tie, cummerbund and even dressing gown in Garrick Club pink and green. The pedagogue has become a bumbling snob with a mad wife, who remains unseen, but screeches like a distraught peacock from off-stage.

It would no doubt be fun to take their appallingly self-important letters to bed and dip into them as a nightcap. But the stage needs something more sustained and dramatic. As it is, the first half mainly consists of Dinsdale Landen's patronising Marlowe, smugly ensconced with computers and books, trying to impress Michael Hordern's Marsh, who fusses around the potting shed that occupies the rest of the split stage.

Marlowe's dream publishing list includes a cookery book by Salman Rushdie, the correspondence of Clive James and Mother Teresa, the letters of "Tubby" Weidenfeld and the collected works of that "underrated" author, Enid Blyton. Poor Marsh has little to do but sally as he gets letter after letter casually invoking Drabble, Bayt, Jeffrey Archer, that "almost obsessively



Snob and social climber: Michael Hordern as Marsh and Dinsdale Landen as Marlowe in *Bookends*

self-effacing" chap Melvyn Bragg, and many another. Waterhouse probably means to send up the pretensions of the literary mafiosi. But the attack on name-dropping comes to seem name-dropping itself, the satire insular, clobby and not all that amusing.

Roughly an hour into the evening, things begin to happen. First, Marsh crashes a big Garrick Club do, accosting the Duke of Edinburgh in the loo and demanding a knighthood for his old pup. With Hordern drunkenly curseying

and calling the invisible prince "ma'am", the comic mercury rises, only to slip back in the second half.

Suddenly the opportunist Marlowe is stealing Marsh's newly rich wife, and Marsh is blackmailing Marlowe into publishing his 983-page book about music-hall jolts. *Pass the Fruit Cake, Iris*. Alas, this last-gasp stab at a plot manages to be ridiculous without being particularly funny.

Still, the odd inventive line emerges from the spoof preciosity.

Nazi-occupied Italy all those years ago

Giles Havergal has adapted, directed (with Jon Pope) and acts in this stage version of Graham Greene's 1969 novel. A tremendous success a year ago, his production was revived in the summer as an end-of-season frolic and will now play two weeks at the Lyric. So ingenious is Havergal's staging, so full of sheer theatrical verve, that the occasional twitch of impatience is worth enduring.

Havergal has distributed the nephew's narrative voice between the three principal actors. Havergal himself also plays the aunt, and Patrick Hannaway and Derwent Watson sharing the role of nephew with a dozen or more plump villains, sweet young maids and the growing police of several nations. Havergal registers Henry's prissier reactions, Watson his blander nature while Hannaway hints at a coarser element. These distinctions, however, are almost

"Scholars are now certain that Sidcup was the venue of the first Little Chef." Marsh solemnly assures his protégé. And at least there is Landen, gurgling and hiccupping in an ecstasy of self-delight. At least there is Hordern, chuckling and grunting, bleating and harrumphing in that inimitable way of his. He is understretched, and perhaps a bit unsure of his lines, even so, he compensates for an awful lot.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

too nice. Triplifying Henry may initially have been to liven up a narrative line, but handing him round between the three actors, sometimes for successive sentences, gives a thrilling reality to the man's confusion as his boundaries of morality collapse on all fronts.

The drama is one of redemption from the prison-house of routine, security and death-in-life to the invigorating uncertainty of living each day dangerously and fully. Havergal's daring direction at its best – and this is 95 per cent of the time – creates this same vital unpredictability in stage terms. He and his fellow actors were identical sombre business suits, shifting into different characters by changes of voice and posture alone. Any one of them could become any other at any time: a shrewd metaphor for the dizzy kaleidoscope of this our life.

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Compounding that is Mui's increasing fondness for ponderous speeds: the Brahms first movement was a particularly dour interpretation of the words "Allegro non troppo". Similarly, the same symphony's finale was never the spontaneous combustion of joy that it should have been, because an atmosphere of caution and correctness damped even those passages where the sheer sonority of the playing was overwhelming. Mui is a gifted conductor; he could be a great one if he re-establishes contact with the musical instincts which, at present, he controls as rigidly as the orchestra in front of him.

RICHARD MORRISON

generating a single surprising moment in the whole evening. Recordings once attempted to reproduce the experience of live concerts, now it is the other way round.

Of course, these matters are related. People pay £60 to hear the Vienna Philharmonic which they know from recordings, not to be rudely shocked by strange music.

In this comforting cyclic process, Riccardo Muti is a compliant side-conductor who has risen to the top by shedding all musical quirks, all heat-of-the-moment indiscretions, all improvisatory flair and interpretative risks – in short, all the Italianian exuberance which made his early career in London so exciting. One word now sums up his music-making control.

Admittedly, that control is a wondrous thing, especially when allied to such magnificent orchestral resources. To hear the glorious

Viennese orchestral sound weighing into Brahms's purple patches: or that sumptuous cello section wrapping the Adagio's lovely tune, or the dramatic change in the violin section's mood during the Beethoven finale, from playful lightness into powerhouse overdrive; these are orchestral subtleties that are not available in London concert halls every day. Neither is the clarinet customarily played with such ethereal remoteness as it was here, in the hovering phrases of the Beethoven slow movement, where it seemed to drift onto the verge of another world.

But time and again the music-making seemed limited, rather than ordered, by that iron control from the podium. Mui sees the music tighter than stitches on a shroud: individual phrases may be

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Average poll tax of £435 is predicted by Labour

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday predicted that poll tax bills next year would average at least £435 a head, £55 higher than the estimate given on Wednesday by Chris Patten, environment secretary.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that, even with cuts of £2 billion, Mr Patten's "fairy-tale estimate" of an average community charge of £380 would be exceeded by most councils. He accused Mr Patten of underestimating the real costs facing councils in his projections for next year's poll tax and spending limits.

The value of the 19 per cent increase in spending limits for next year had been eroded by substantial underestimate of the amount councils would spend in the present financial year. Although the government gave councils permission to spend £32.8 billion this financial year, they would actually spend a total of £36.4 billion.

As a result, councils would only be able to increase spending by 7 per cent next year to stay within the targets announced on Wednesday. In reality, inflation and wage settlements would add at least

Blair claim on skill shortages

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday used unpublished government figures to show what the party claimed was a "devastating picture of Britain's skill shortage scandal".

Tony Blair, Labour spokesman, and Henry McLeish, Labour MP for Fife Central, used the Commons' library computer to access records on skill shortages kept by the employment department but not normally published.

The figures show extensive skill shortages in a range of key industries, in spite of unemployment rising overall. "It is a scandal that, at a time of rising unemployment, we should have major skill shortages in key industrial occupations," Mr Blair said. The figures made it essential that the government should cancel proposed cuts in training funding.

Michael Howard, employment secretary, referring to the CBI's industrial trends survey this week, said the latest evidence showed that the number of employers reporting skill shortages had fallen by 10 per cent, and indicated clearly that employers were not cutting investment in innovation and training.

£3.27 billion to budgets next year and new responsibilities imposed on councils by the government would add a further £1.47 billion. Even if cuts of more than £2 billion were made to bring total spending back into line with government figures, shortfalls in the collection of the poll tax would push bills well above the £380 target, Mr Blunkett said.

Figures published by the Audit Commission just before Mr Patten's announcement on Wednesday showed that, six months after the introduction of the poll tax in England and Wales, one in ten adults had yet to make any payment. The highest level of non-payment was in London, where almost one-quarter of adults had paid nothing.

Mr Blunkett's figures suggest that even a comparatively modest non-payment rate of 7 per cent would add £55 to poll tax bills next year. If the level is 15 per cent, as widely predicted, the average community charge for 1991 would be around £500 a head. "Mr Patten cannot deliver his promises to limit spending to £39 billion or to keep poll tax to £380 on average," he said. "Poll tax payers, local councils and Tory backbench MPs are going to get the worse of both worlds: rising poll tax bills and cuts in key services."

An environment department spokeswoman said that ministers were confident that, once councils began enforcing poll tax bills in earnest, arrears would fall. Only one-quarter of councils had, so far, taken legal action against defaulters.

Councils were being given a generous settlement for next year, and the fact that they had only 7 per cent for next year was the result of a 15 per cent increase in spending this year, she said.

• The Labour-controlled London borough of Haringey was warned that switchboard and postal links would be cut at its offices at 10am today, unless redundancy notices issued to 14 staff were withdrawn.

The National and Local Government Officers' Association said that it would call out the council's switchboard and postroom workers on indefinite strike unless its demands were met. The council's 123 poll tax staff are already on strike over the job losses, caused by cost-cutting as a result of charge-capping.

The union is accusing the council of breaking an agreement to redeploy surplus staff, and has said that it is determined to safeguard its members' jobs. The council says that only nine of the 14 staff in question will face compulsory redundancy, and has offered to renew efforts to find them alternative jobs.

Parliament, page 3



Leaning lighthouse: English Heritage is being asked to provide funds to help save the 17th century lighthouse at Flamborough Head. Christopher Walden, East Yorkshire's chief architect, has drawn up a plan to coat the 75ft high lighthouse in a new liquid, plastic glaze which would provide protection against the weather for the stonework and also give the structure added strength.

Britain in hostage row with allies

Continued from page 1
the ink was dry on the documents. One Whitehall source said: "This really is the end".

The government's anger is all the more intense because Britain has more hostages in Iraq than any other nation and was not consulted by the Germans and Italians.

The Foreign Office statement yesterday said: "We have been informed that the German and Italian governments yesterday proposed to the UN secretary general that Herr Brandt accompanied by other leading European politicians might pay a visit to Baghdad under UN auspices to plead for the release of all the hostages."

The UN secretary general has his own special representative and has declined to meet this request. It follows that a visit by Herr Brandt or any other European politicians must be discouraged in accordance with the conclusions of the Rome European council."

Mrs Thatcher, who has been criticised for a grudging response to Mr Heath's Baghdad mission, which secured the release of more than 30 British hostages, drew attention to the agreement on such missions in her Rome press conference. The Rome summit had agreed too that visits should

be left to the UN's special envoy.

Speaking on BBC TV's Six O'Clock News Edward Heath said:

"I deplore the remarks which were

reported today from President Bush, saying that 'he had had it' as far as President Hussein was concerned."

These issues were far too great to be decided on a personal level or dislike between national leaders.

"It is horrifying that this position should have been reached. What is

required is a cool head and

patience."

Mr Heath added: "My attitude is that she (Margaret Thatcher) should dissociate herself from the Foreign Office for discouraging relatives from visiting hostages in Iraq this Christmas."

"There must be a distinction

between appeasement and solving a problem. And what have got to do in the Middle East is solve the problem. That requires a diplomatic effort. And that effort is not being made. The govern-

ment has abandoned diplomacy."

Mr Heath said: "My attitude is that thousands of lives were at stake. He also criticised the Foreign Office for discouraging relatives from visiting hostages in Iraq this Christmas."

Ten British women are to visit

Baaghdad next week to ask for the release of their husbands, contrary to advice from the Foreign Office which believes they could be taking "considerable risks".

No-fault divorce plan shelved

Continued from page 1

divorce laws for more than 20 years. There were also calls for increased Government funding for the mediation and conciliation services which will play a key part in the new divorce process.

However, the Lord Chancellor has been anxious in recent speeches to emphasise that the proposals, in which divorce is a process over a minimum period of one year, makes divorce, if anything, harder. Reaction from various bodies yesterday endorsed his view.

In the meantime, the government will face continuing pressure to act on the proposals from the wide range of bodies who expressed support yesterday for what amounts to the biggest shake-up in

divorce laws for more than 20 years. There were also calls for increased Government funding for the mediation and conciliation services which will play a key part in the new divorce process.

The reforms are aimed at reducing the bitterness that is the hallmark of the present accusatorial divorce procedure with its emphasis on fault: instead, couples are to be encouraged to jointly take responsibilities for the divorce and agree arrangements for children, home and finance before a divorce is granted.

Malcolm Wicks, of the Family

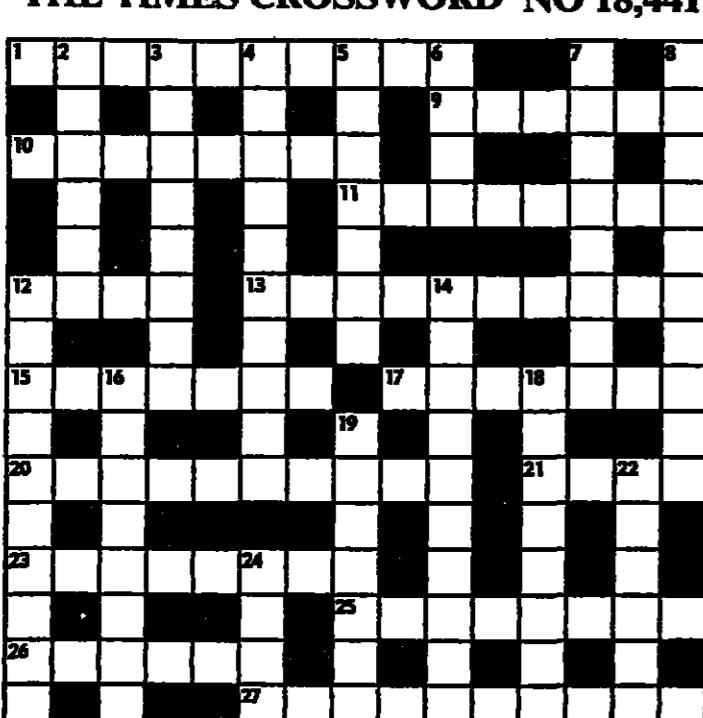
Policy Studies Centre, welcomed the emphasis in the proposals on the interests of the children. They

could have a huge impact on the lives of the 1.5 million children in England and Wales who are likely to experience their children's divorce in the Nineties, he said.

Also welcoming the reforms, the Law Society said they would not make divorce easier, "in some cases it would be harder for spouses who under present law, have been able to remarry before tying up the ends of their former marriage".

Derek Sands, chairman of the Law Society's family law committee, backed the proposals to remove the need to make accusations of adultery or unreasonable behaviour or to assert the marriage had broken down.

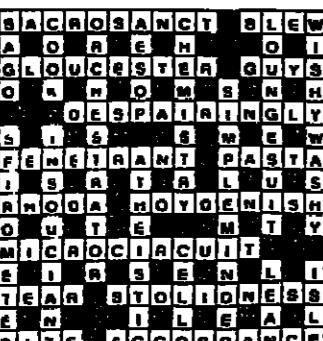
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,441



ACROSS

- 1 Used to back worker (6-4).
- 9 I meet a secret policeman in the peninsula (6).
- 10 When enraptured the man agreed (8).
- 11 The account for a decent round trip (8).
- 12 Yard measure (4).
- 13 Digger makes a point with the administrative officer (10).
- 15 Snap to stop growth (7).
- 17 Strange license - a bit innocent (7).
- 20 Fish girl is the cause of food poisoning (10).
- 21 Sad waste (4).
- 23 Two Greek characters abandoning a literary set (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,440



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FIGURES OF SPEECH

- ANTIMETABOLE
- a. A rhetorical timeworn
- b. Inverse repetition
- c. A criss-cross metaphor
- GONGORISM
- a. Affected preciosity
- b. Transformation of natural order
- c. Disingenuous understatement
- PALLILOGY
- a. Empirical repetition
- b. Question and answer sequence
- c. An archaic revival
- HOTACISM
- a. Apelitic elision
- b. Assuming a listener's idiocy
- c. Too many is

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks C, London (within N & S Circs), 731 M-ways/roads M4-M1 732 M-ways/roads M1-M4 733 M-ways/roads M25 735 M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

West Country 737

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-West England 742

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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AA Roadwatch is charged at

By KEVIN EASTY
AND TIM JONES

UK workers are threatening to strike for a 12.5 per cent rise in one of the strongest government pay rounds, fears of the Transport and Workers' TUC last night warned. Employment plans for a new agreement were re-tabled, with executives offering radical changes which would return at Jaguar to 1989's age production levels from 2.2 to 4.5 weeks, to about 4.25 weeks first year. They want to end working time groups. The strike, which would start earlier, earlier than the rate of inflation, in October 1991.

of the company's leaders, a speciality, was to be taken up today, but was postponed because the union's chairman, Chris Laddell, Secretary of the TUC, here are elements of which have been open to the union's leadership. "We are there to make better for all our members," he said. "We are not here to force any demands." 12/1/1991

Tunnel rights terms today

EUROTUNNEL will reveal yesterday the terms of its £500 million rights issue, which completes the £2.6 billion of extra funding needed to finish the project. Originally estimated to cost £4.8 billion, the cross-channel link will now require more than £7.5 billion to bring it into operation in 1993.

Fixing the price at which shareholders will be asked to buy more shares continued until late last night. The details will be accompanied by a new package of travel discounts and perks for shareholders.

Leigh rises 93%
Leigh Interests, the environmental services and waste disposal group, reported pre-tax profits up 93 per cent to £6.72 million for the half-year to end-September. The increase was in line with a forecast made in association with Leigh's £3.4 million agreed bid for H T Hughes, a fellow waste disposal operator, in September. Earnings rose 22 per cent to 8.9p a share. The company is recommending an interim dividend of 2.4p a share, 13 per cent up on last year's comparable payment after adjustment for the bonus share element of a £36 million rights issue earlier this year.

Tempus, page 27

DAKS down

DAKS Simpson, the clothing manufacturer and retailer, saw pre-tax profits for the year to end-July fall by 21 per cent to £4.16 million on sales up 9.26 per cent at £69.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 51.4p to 41.4p and the final dividend is 8.25p, making 11.75p for the year, up from 10.95p.

Tempus, page 27

Payout held

Westbury, the housebuilder, reported profits down from £18.2 million to £5.1 million in the six months to end-August. But unit sales were slightly higher at 1,110 homes. Borrowings were contained and gearing was almost unchanged at 50 per cent. The interim dividend is held at 3.25p.

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9525 (+0.0075)
German mark 2.9405 (-0.0061)
Exchange index 94.4 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 157.21 (-2.08)
FT SE 100 2026.0 (-2.23)
New York Dow Jones 2457.18 (+14.85*)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24295.16 (-99.94)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and major changes Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month Interbank 13 1/2-13 3/4%
3-month Eurobills 13 1/2-13 3/4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Eurobonds 7 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.67-7.05%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-100 1/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ 1.9525
\$ 2.9405
E 2.4848
C 2.9405
F 2.9405
Yen 103.32
Euro 94.40
ECU 2.48720
SDR 0.72300
ECU 1.48720
£ 1.9525

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$380 10 pm \$380 40
close \$380 00-380 50 (195.00-
195.50)
New York: Comex \$380 90-381 40*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$34 70/bbl (\$34 41)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 1.57
Austria Sch. 2.41
Belgium Fr. 63.30
Canada \$ 1.25
Denmark Kr. 11.77
Finland Mark 10.33
France Fr. 10.33
Germany DM 10.33
Greece Dr. 10.33
Hong Kong \$ 15.67
Ireland Pta. 1.15
Italy Lira 250.50
Netherlands Gld. 3.44
Norway Kr. 11.92
Portugal Esc. 270.00
Switzerland Fr. 10.33
Spain Pta. 191.25
Sweden Kr. 11.98
Switzerland Fr. 10.33
United Arab Emirates Dir. 2.025
USA \$ 1.9525
Yugoslavia Dinar 27.00
1.0000

Rates for small denomination bank notes as reported by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.

Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Slide in pound dashes hopes of early interest rate cut

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

HOPES of a further quick cut in interest rates virtually disappeared after sterling slid to its lowest levels against the mark since entry to the exchange-rate mechanism four weeks ago. The weak exchange rate in the face of a strong German currency has emerged as the main limiting factor on the Chancellor's ability to cut interest rates at a time of growing evidence of recession and a further sharp fall in the growth of the money supply.

The Treasury took the unusual step yesterday of issuing a statement to back up Wednesday's moves by the Bank of England to deter speculation on an immediate base rate cut after the Confederation of British Industry's gloomy quarterly

economic survey. "It is obvious from the authorities' actions in the markets in recent days that they do not consider a fall in interest rates appropriate," as the Chancellor has said, interest rates will not be cut until it is safe to do so, the Treasury said. The statement initially countered overnight weakness in sterling after foreign exchange dealers decided that the Bank's message had applied only to one day. But sterling and share prices again fell sharply after the Bundesbank raised the Lombard rate, its emergency lending rate, by half a point to 8 per cent.

The Bundesbank, which operates three separate interest rates, said its action was not intended to raise money market rates in Germany, but only to correct a gap between the emergency lending rate and

market rates. The more important repo rate was fixed at 8 per cent, indicating no upward movement. The move was widely interpreted, however, as an indication that the Bundesbank was moving to tighten monetary conditions, which would lead to higher interest rates, and the mark rose strongly against the dollar.

Sterling, though edging up against the dollar, was dragged down in the ERM and trades were made as low as DM2.9318 in the afternoon. The pound closed in London 0.6 pfennigs lower at DM2.9405, its lowest closing level in the ERM. Share prices fell 1 per cent in London, less than on continental exchanges.

Further evidence of an economic slowdown emerged from the weekly money figures, which showed that growth in M0

the narrow measure of money supply, slowed from 4.6 per cent to about 3.8 per cent between September and October. Nigel Richardson of Warburg Securities said that the annual rate of growth of M0 over the past six months was now about 1 per cent.

Many in the City believe the Chancellor would like to cut interest rates further on the strength of lower money growth, which was cited as justification for the reduction in base rates to 13 per cent in the money markets. The three-month interest rates crept up to just above 13 per cent.

Roger Bootle of Midland Montagu said the Chancellor did not need any further evidence from the domestic economy to cut interest rates further, but that he would not want to do so until sterling was above

its ERM central rate of DM 2.95. He said the Bundesbank's move removed fears of a substantive early rise in German interest rates. "UK rates are coming down comparatively soon," he added.

Gerrard Lyons of DKB International said: "There is strong pressure to ease American interest rates further, this is likely to lead to funds moving from dollars into marks, leaving sterling vulnerable."

Interest rate cuts of between 0.5 and 1.5 points are still expected before the end of the year by most commentators.

● The price of Brent crude for December closed 34 cents higher at \$34.75 on the International Petroleum Exchange after touching \$35.18, but trading was slack.

Stock markets, page 28

Polly Peck jobs cut as Nadir wins legal fight

By MATTHEW BOND

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, has won a significant victory in his battle with the Serious Fraud Office, whose actions he alleges contributed to the collapse of his company. His victory came as the administrators who now run the company made half its headquarters staff redundant.

In the High Court, Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland granted Mr Nadir leave to seek a judicial review of the SFO's refusal to tell him what alleged offences it is investigating and what evidence it has of such wrong doing. Mr Nadir was questioned for three hours by the fraud office on September 20, the day Polly Peck's shares were suspended at 108p, after falling 15p.

The legal victory comes two days after the fraud office raided the Mayfair headquarters of Polly Peck, a move that prompted an angry statement from Mr Nadir. In the statement, Mr Nadir said that at the end of the September 20 interview neither he nor his lawyers were any the wiser about the actual transactions or series of transactions that concerned the fraud office.

In Turkey, Richard Stone, a Coopers partner and one of the three administrators, began his investigation of Polly Peck's Turkish business, principally Vestel Electronics and Meyra, the food distributor. Mr Stone's visit was overshadowed by the comments of President Turgut Ozal of Turkey. Contradicting Turkey's previously conciliatory line, Mr Ozal told Turkish-Cypriot journalists

"I can definitely say that nothing will happen to Asil Nadir's investments in Turkey and the Turkish Republic of northern Cyprus."

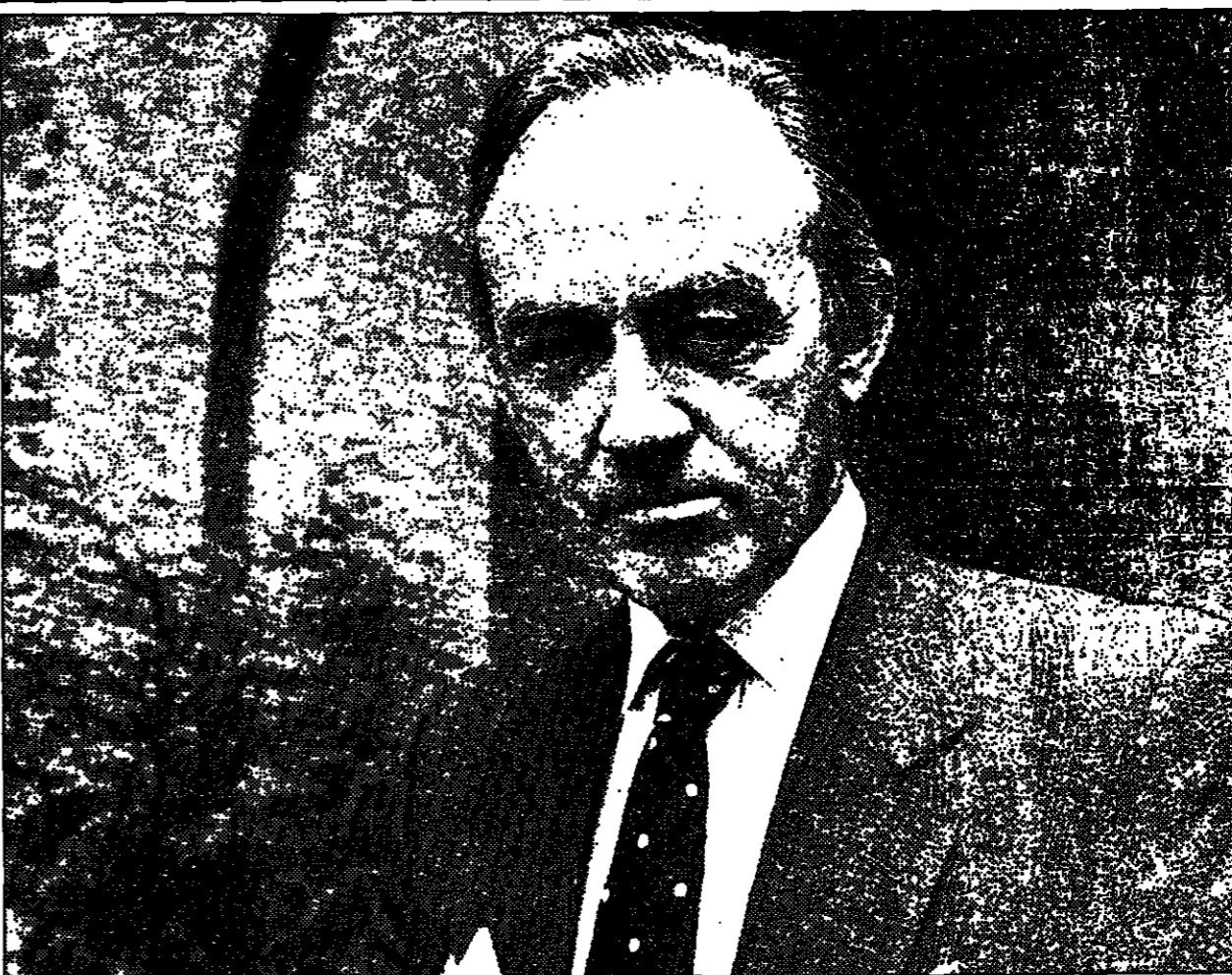
At the judicial review, Mr Nadir's lawyers will argue that the fraud office has a duty of fairness to provide him with information that will enable Mr Nadir to answer its questions properly. The fraud office rejects that.

Giving leave, Lord Justice Taylor said it was arguable that the law that obliged a person to answer questions put by the fraud office might also impose some other duty on the SFO itself. He added that the court had come to the conclusion "without giving any undue grounds for optimism" that Mr Nadir would win the review.

The judicial review will be an important test of the way the fraud office conducts its activities. Under the 1987 Criminal Justice Act, people assisting police with fraud enquiries do not have the right to remain silent. What Mr Nadir's lawyers are suggesting is that, therefore, neither does the SFO.

Following the court's decision, the fraud office said it recognised the importance of the review. "The SFO welcomes this opportunity to clarify the point at issue." Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland recommended the case be heard as quickly as possible. The fraud office's application for 21 days to prepare its case was granted.

Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland recommended the case be heard as quickly as possible. The fraud office's application for 21 days to prepare its case was granted.



All or nothing: James White, who resigned rather than just be chief executive of Bunzl under a new chairman

White forced to quit at Bunzl

By MARTIN BARROW

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders have forced the resignation of James White as chairman and chief executive of Bunzl after pressuring for the dual role to be split.

Mr White and two other directors associated with his ten-year tenure at the company resigned yesterday after four days of talks. He has combined the two senior posts since 1988, and is believed to have declined the chief executive job, refusing to work under a new non-executive chairman. He is not expected to receive compensation.

David Kendall, a non-executive director since 1988, has been appointed non-executive chairman at Bunzl. He is currently deputy chairman of British Coal and is also on the board of STC.

Mr White and two other directors associated with his ten-year tenure at the company resigned yesterday after four days of talks. He has combined the two senior posts since 1988, and is believed to have declined the chief executive job, refusing to work under a new non-executive chairman. He is not expected to receive compensation.

The two other directors who have resigned are Brian Ford, managing director of service and distribution, and Paul Lorenzini who will temporarily

had limited success, with the downturn in economy making it difficult for Bunzl to complete disposals at prices which were considered necessary to reduce borrowings incurred during the spending spree.

In 1989, pre-tax profits fell 30 per cent to £65.4 million on sales 6 per cent lower at £1.64 billion and this year prospects are not bright. Last month, Bunzl returned interim profits 25 per cent lower at £30 million and maintained the dividend at 2.6p a share. The shares fell 3p to 57p.

Comment, page 27

Privatisation plans for power 'a fraud'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government was effectively accused of fraud by the Labour party over its planned privatisation of the electricity distribution companies to be launched today.

Labour made its attack on the government's electricity privatisation on the eve of today's launch of the Pathfinder prospectus for the distribution companies.

Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, disclosed for the first time detailed area-by-area projections of the loss on the transaction of each distribution company.

He said that overall the 12 regional electricity companies were to be sold off at less than a third of their real value. Last year, their assets stood at £1.3 billion, and those of the National Grid Company at £4.8 billion.

But these total assets of more than £16.1 billion were expected by the City to be sold

DTI seeks German help on LUI probe

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MUNICH Re, Germany's largest reinsurance group, will be asked to help the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into London United Investments, the collapsed insurance group.

LUI's administrators are suing three former directors and a Liechtenstein trust to recover commissions of up to £100 million allegedly paid by the group on reinsurance contracts with Munich Re.

The DTI enquiry will focus on the role of Protega Agentur, a Liechtenstein trust, into which the directors secretly paid a \$300,000 dividend from an unknown LUI.

A writ has been issued against Ronnie Driver and Peter Wilson, LUI's former chairman and chief executive, and Henry Weavers, a one-time director. This is to recover commissions allegedly paid when HS Weavers,

capital shortfall after the collapse in Tokyo share values. If they failed, a report by the broker added, they would have to cut their loan books by 16 per cent, more than their entire overseas lending in the past six years.

A week ago Japan's big four houses, Nomura, Nikai, Daiwa and Yamai, reported average drops in net profits of 60.13 per cent for the six months to September 30. Again, the Tokyo stock market's dramatic fall this year was blamed.

Yesterday's unsettling news from the Japanese banking community, combined with a sharp fall in the yen and heightened anxiety about the possibility of war in the Middle East, sent Tokyo stock prices plunging. The Nikkei closed 898.94 points lower at 24,295.16. The dollar leapt 1.35 to end at Y130.70.

Comment, page 27

Japanese bank balance upset

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

WORRIES about Japan's flagging economic health, and its impact on world financial markets, has swelled after three of Japan's biggest banks drastically cut their profits forecast for the current financial year.

News of the gloomier outlook, which followed a spate of embarrassing scandals involving leading Japanese banks and a dramatic fall in profits of Japan's top stockbrokers, helped to pull the rug from under Japanese stock prices yesterday, slicing nearly 900 points off the Nikkei share index.

Sanwa Bank shrunk its profit forecast for the year to March 31, 1991, from 160 billion yen (£628 million) to Y10 billion. The bank blamed a squeeze on net interest spreads caused by the jump in market and other interest rates and lower earnings from its shareholdings

because of the slump in Tokyo share prices. Fuji Bank cut its forecast profits by one third to Y100 billion, and Dai-ichi Kangyo, the world's biggest bank, clipped its expectations by 30.3 per cent to Y115 billion.

The grim forecasts are the latest of many problems for Japan's banking community. Taizo Hashida, chairman of the Japanese Federation of Bankers Associations, has given warning this week that Japanese banks and their customers face the threat of a credit squeeze. Mr Hashida, the chairman of Fuji Bank, also urged bankers in Japan to steer clear of controversy and trouble by not lending money to stock and property market speculators.

Last month, New Japan Securities, a large stockbroker partly owned by the Industrial Bank of Japan, said Japan's dozen biggest commercial banks needed to raise £5,000 billion to cure their

THE PERFECT POWER: PURCHASE RATIO</h2

GEC in £200m US contract for computers

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Electric Company of Britain has won a contract, potentially worth more than £200 million, to supply primary flight computers for the Boeing 777. The 777, which was launched this week by Boeing, the world's biggest aircraft-maker, will be its first to adopt fly-by-wire technology, which does away with mechanical linkages between cockpit and control surfaces.

GEC has never before won a contract to supply the main flight computers on a fly-by-wire civil airliner.

The Boeing contract is regarded by GEC as an important breakthrough. The computers will be built by GEC Avionics at Rochester, Kent, where 6,000 are employed. The 777, a long-range twin jet, is being launched on the back of orders for up to 68 placed by American Airlines.

American placed orders this week for 34 777s and took options on as many again as part of a record \$22 billion order for Boeing planes. Developing the twin-engined 360-390 seat jet is expected to cost Boeing \$4.5 billion.

GEC said that part of the development work on the flight computer had already been completed. It was not clear how the rest of the development costs would be

split. Fly-by-wire systems are claimed to improve aircraft performance through speedier response while reducing maintenance and operating costs. They were pioneered in military aircraft.

Two high-technology aircraft series made by Boeing's European rival, Airbus Industrie, are already flying.

GEC's experience in fly-by-wire technology was acquired in so-called secondary systems, the remote units which control moving surfaces on the wings and tailplane.

It has also been involved in flight computers for the Tornado fighter-bomber and has a leading role in the European Fighter Aircraft project.

If the Boeing 777 contract is a success, GEC stands to become a leading company in the civil market. As airlines come under growing pressure to invest in more fuel-efficient aircraft, Airbus will be offering A330 and A340 aircraft in competition with Boeing's 777 and models from McDonnell Douglas.

Boeing hopes to win further key orders for the 777 from United Airlines, All Nippon Airways and from British Airways, which is expected to order \$4 billion of planes this year from as-yet unnamed companies.

Looking to make a return: former Mountleigh chairman Tony Clegg yesterday

TONY Clegg, the former chairman of Mountleigh, is planning a return to the British property market. The question he cannot answer is when (Matthew Bond writes).

In a week's time it will be a year since Mr Clegg sold his 22.6 per cent stake in

Mountleigh to Nelson Peltz and Peter May for £70 million.

That anniversary is significant for Mr Clegg. "I felt I should stay out of the domestic market for 12 months at a minimum, but at the right moment I think I would be very interested in coming back into British property," he said.

Mr Clegg was talking after addressing 200 of Essex's more progressive farmers at a seminar organised by Savills,

the quoted property agent. Although he admitted his personal agricultural expertise was limited to a 40-acre farm in Yorkshire "and a few shaggy cattle", Mountleigh was a big investor in agricultural land during his stewardship.

But when he does return to British property he will concentrate, he says, on what he knows best, commercial property. Mr Clegg is already back in his Mayfair stamping ground, working a four-day week for E&F Securities, his private property company, and on charity projects.

He is the first to admit that the golden days of the commercial property market are over and he believes commercial property will take

longer than residential to recover from its present depths. "It is not really a dealer's market at the moment," he says, with characteristic understatement. But there are, he says, still deals to be done. "I have had a lot of things put to me over the last 12 months. As a result his private property company already has investments in America and France.

While next week's anniversary is important for Mr Clegg, it could also be important for Mountleigh shareholders. Mr Peltz and Mr May will then be free to buy more shares in the company. With Mountleigh shares at 56p, compared with the 200p they paid for their initial stake, it will be interesting to see what they do.

North West Water buys three firms

By GRAHAM SEARJANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

NORTH West Water Group is paying £51 million for water treatment engineering companies in Britain, America and Ireland to augment its engineering resources and form a base for international expansion.

Dennis Grove, the chairman, said the move was "careful and selective" and stressed that North West was expanding from its existing expertise.

Britain's second biggest privatised water services group is paying £75 million to buy Envirex, the water treatment division of Banner Industries, the American group, and up to £13.8 million (£12.5 million) for two water engineering companies owned by Jones Group, the Irish conglomerate.

All three companies have strong positions in waste water treatment.

Water Engineering, the only one based in Britain, designs,

makes and installs waste water plants and numbers

North West's core water business

among its customers. North

West expects technical contributions from the others to strengthen design and engineering capacity for its investment programme.

Envirex made an operating profit for the year to end-June of \$10.6 million on turnover of \$100 million. Water Engineering and Jones Environmental, which operates in Ireland, had combined operating profits of £450,000 and turnover of £13.2 million in 1989.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Howden profit fears over supply dispute

HOWDEN Group, the Scottish engineer, has given a warning that its profits for the year to the end of April 1991 will be "very severely affected" by a contractual dispute involving the supply of four tunnelling machines to MT Group. Howden said that the dispute between the two groups, which referred to cost overruns on the contract, will probably be referred to arbitration "which could take up to two years".

The delays and extra costs in completing the contract have resulted in higher than expected borrowings, though Howden forecasts that year-end debt should not be significantly higher than that at the previous year-end.

BDA doubles interim losses

BDA Holdings, the property developer and consultancy,

has announced more than doubled interim pre-tax losses of £1.6 million for the six months to end-July compared with £755,000 for the same period last year. The figure reflected losses on sites, and a revaluation of site values and residential property sale prices. The company will not be paying an interim dividend.

Rank sells associate

RANK Organisation's 49 per cent-owned associate Rank Xerox has sold its businesses in Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore to Fuji Xerox, its 50 per cent-owned Japanese associate, for £135 million. The British parent will receive £48.5 million cash because it is entitled to only a third of the joint venture's earnings.

The businesses being sold contributed £4.4 million of post-tax earnings in the last financial year, suggesting an exit multiple on the deal of 11 times earnings, said Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive.

Brewer falls at half time

BURTONWOOD Brewery, of Cheshire, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £2.62 million to £2.38 million in the six months to end-September on turnover 15 per cent higher at £22.98 million. The interim dividend stays at 0.7p a share, payable from earnings up from 8.1p to 8.5p a share as a result of a reduced tax charge. Property profits rose from £65,000 to £86,000.

Barclays deputy retires

BARCLAYS Bank has confirmed that Peter Leslie, one of its two deputy chairmen, will retire in March, after 36 years at the bank. He is not being replaced. Mr Leslie, aged 59, became the first chief general manager after Barclays and Barclays International merged in 1985. He held the post for three years.

After Mr Leslie's retirement, Sir Martin Jacob will be Barclays' sole deputy chairman as part of the divisional reorganisation announced on Wednesday. He will also head the bank's new markets and investment banking division.

Dewhirst to close factory

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DEWHIRST Group, the manufacturer of clothing, is another casualty of the decline of the textile industry and is to close its County Durham factory, at a cost of 83 jobs.

The company said it has been forced to close its plant in Willington because of "difficult trading conditions".

Dewhirst recently said 55 people from the plant would be made redundant in the women's wear production department and talks are in progress with a potential buyer for the rest of the plant.

However, the talks have fallen through and Dewhirst has decided on the closure of the plant.

The group recently announced a sharp decline in first-half profits, down from £2.81 million to £781,000.

However, the company stressed that order books in other areas of its business remain strong and the group's remaining 5,000 employees are not affected by the situation in Willington.

Dewhirst said this was recently emphasised by an £8 million contract with British Airways to supply staff uniforms. The deal involves a three-year contract to supply 30,000 BA staff worldwide with uniforms for flying and ground staff. The shares held steady at 23 1/2p.

Sock Shop assets sale

THE administrators of Sock Shop International, Sophie Mirman's failed business, are likely to stay on until Christmas in order to dispose of peripheral assets and ensure a smooth handover of the business to the management team, headed by Juan Olaso, which has bought the bulk of the company for £2.25 million.

The Sock Shop creditors, who are owed about £17 million, have been told that they are unlikely to recover any of the money.

Sock Shop International will now be called SSI Realisations. The business that has been bought by Mr Olaso, backed by Murray Johnstone, is called Sock Shop Holdings.

The administrators were appointed last February when dealings in the company's shares were suspended on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Kalamazoo back in the black

KALAMAZOO, the office stationery to business systems group, is back in the black after bringing costs under control and disposing of loss-making businesses.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £1.07 million in the year to end-July, compared with a loss of £4.08 million last time. Earnings per share stood at 2.2p (nil), and the company is recommending a dividend of 1p for the year, compared with none last time. The shares rose 2 1/2p to 21 1/2p.

RATNERS GROUP

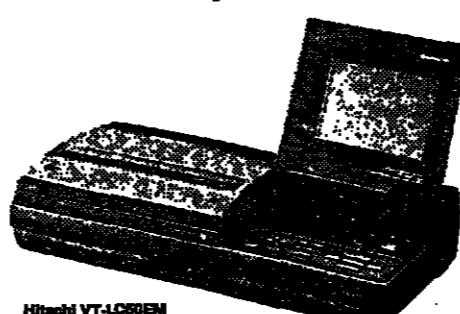
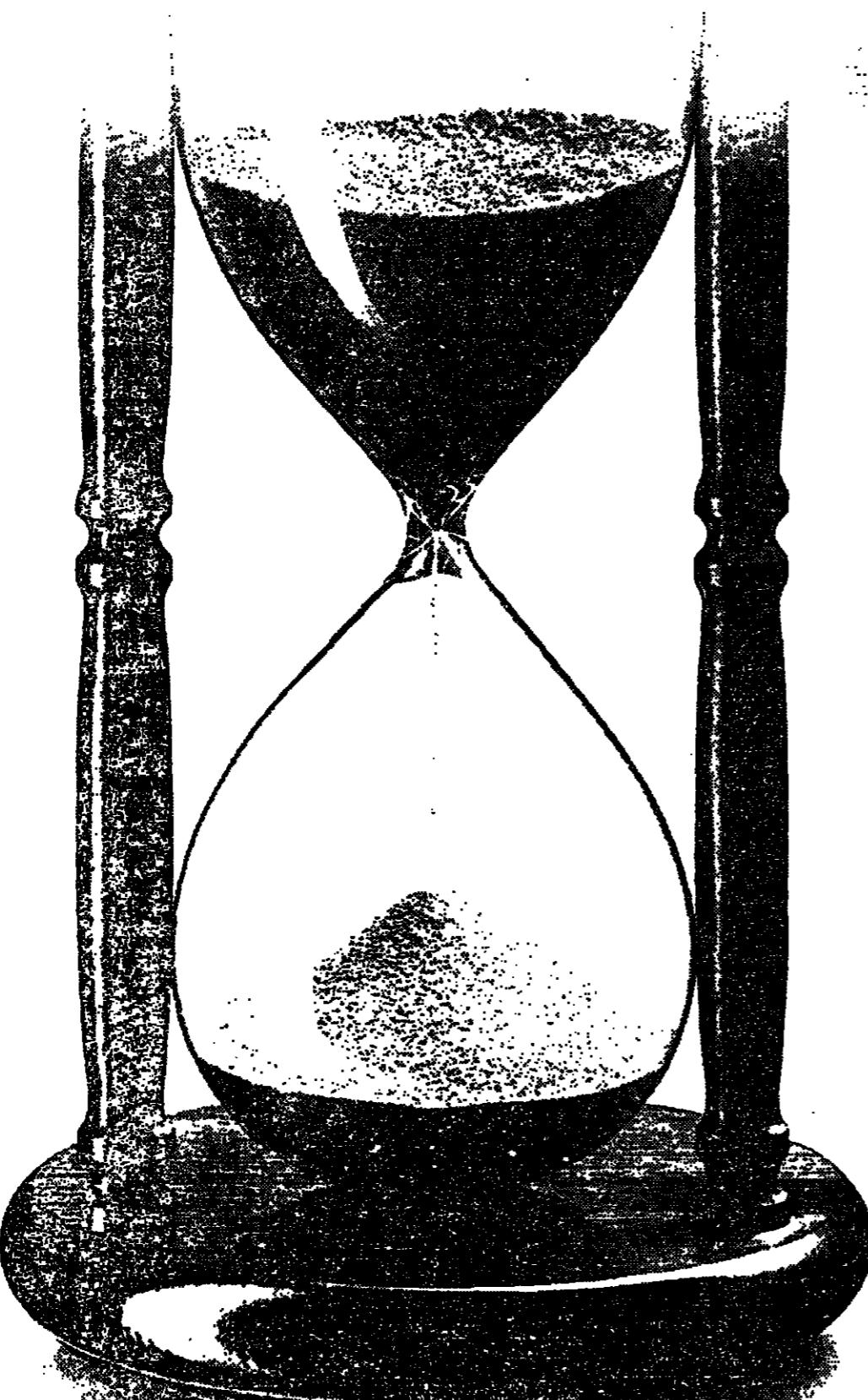
Ratners Group plc (Incorporated in England No. 471692)

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NOTICE is hereby given to holders of the Company's US Convertible Preference Shares pursuant to Article 4F(4)(b) of the Company's Articles of Association that The Bank of New York (the "Bank") is hereby designated as the Company's agent for receipt of notices of conversion of US Convertible Preference Shares which are for the time being and from time to time held by the Bank as Depositary under the Deposit Agreement dated as of 24th October, 1990 between (1) the Company (2) the Bank and (3) all holders from time to time of American Depository Receipts issued thereunder and that the offices of the Bank at 101 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10286 USA and of the London branch of the Bank at 46 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6AA, England are hereby specified as offices at which notices of conversion of US Convertible Preference Shares so held may be lodged pursuant to the said Article 4F(4)(b).

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Volkswagen wins official backing for Skoda takeover

FROM WOLFGANG MUNCHAU
IN PRAGUE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA has reached a preliminary decision to give Volkswagen, the German car maker, control over Skoda, the Czech car group.

The decision, although not final, is likely to end the month-long struggle between Volkswagen and Renault of France to take control of Skoda.

The Czechoslovak federal government is, however, likely to make a last effort to persuade Renault to increase its offer substantially before a final decision is made, although it is understood that Renault would have to change its position drastically if it was to gain a fighting chance. A trade delegation will visit the French company shortly.

Renault, with Volvo of Sweden, has offered to invest Ffr13 billion over the next ten years, while it would retain a minority stake of 40 per cent. Volkswagen has offered to



Calif: backs German bid

invest DM8 billion. The German company will be paying DM225 million for a 25 per cent stake, but wants to raise this eventually to 75 per cent.

Carl Hahn, the veteran president of Volkswagen, visited Prague this week to finalise the arrangement. The acquisition of Skoda would mark his second big deal this year, after the company bought up most of the former East German car industry. Volkswagen has a narrow lead

as Europe's largest car manufacturer, over Fiat of Italy, but the lead will widen if Skoda joins the VW stable. The company also owns Seat of Spain and Audi.

Carl Hahn has been instrumental in turning Volkswagen from a loss-maker into a profitable company, although its profit margins still lag behind some competitors. The Skoda takeover has turned into a big political issue in Czechoslovakia, amid fears that a deal with Volkswagen might mark the beginning of a wholesale German takeover of Czechoslovakia's industry. One source said: "While we already recognise that the Germans can buy a large chunk of the country, we must not allow them to buy the whole country."

However, those sentiments are unlikely to represent a critical stumbling block for the Volkswagen-Skoda deal. Officials say that the Volkswagen offer has three advantages. It is financially more attrac-

tive, it allows Skoda greater scope to retain its separate corporate identity and it includes provisions for some technical synergies. It has been suggested that Skoda models might be fitted with Volkswagen engines.

Volkswagen has pledged to retain the company's national identity, similar to its approach towards Seat. In some cases, distribution networks have been merged, but Seat operates as separate company under separate management.

The government's preliminary decision in favour of Volkswagen came after Marian Calif, the prime minister, came out in favour of the German company on the grounds that "they know our mentality better". Volkswagen also has the backing of Skoda's management, although it is understood that, even within Skoda, there have been bitter disputes over which company to back.

Feature, page 27

URS losses top \$1m

By Our City STAFF

URS International, the professional services group based at Arlington, Virginia, and quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, has reported a pre-tax loss of \$1.2 million (\$730,000 loss) for the six months to June 30.

The company said it is negotiating with potential buyers of its major operating assets.

Contract revenue fell by 12 per cent to \$4.8 million, while

costs and expenses fell only 4 per cent to \$6.1 million during the six-month period.

Keith Thomson, the president and chief executive, said the company continued to suffer severe liquidity problems in the first half of the year.

As a result, "there is serious doubt about the company's ability to continue to function on a going-concern basis," he added.

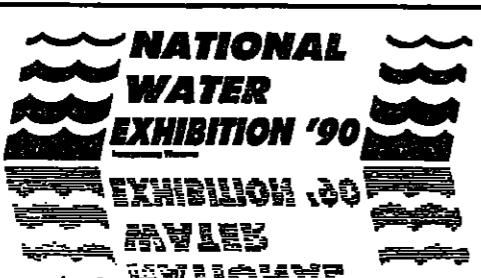
WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg/yr (%)	Yearly chg/yr (%)	Daily chg/yr (%)	Yearly chg/yr (%)	Daily chg/yr (%)	Yearly chg/yr (%)
The World (free)	561.1	-1.5	-33.5	-1.1	-24.9	-1.4	-19.8
EAFFE (free)	107.2	-1.5	-33.5	-1.1	-24.9	-1.4	-19.8
Europe (free)	997.0	-2.4	-36.0	-2.1	-30.8	-2.3	-22.8
Nth America (free)	102.5	-2.4	-36.1	-2.2	-31.0	-2.3	-23.0
Nordic (free)	593.1	-0.6	-22.0	-0.8	-18.9	-0.5	-6.0
Pacific	128.2	-0.6	-21.6	-1.1	-18.7	-0.5	-5.4
Far East	322.9	-3.8	-44.2	-3.1	-38.7	-3.7	-32.7
Australia	231.2	-1.7	-33.4	-1.6	-19.1	-1.8	-19.7
Austria	131.8	0.8	-11.7	-0.6	-5.1	0.7	6.5
Belgium	721.2	-0.1	-26.7	0.0	-22.4	0.0	-11.7
Canada	393.3	-0.7	-34.5	-0.7	-20.5	-0.6	-21.0
Denmark	1152.2	-0.7	-12.5	-1.1	-7.4	-0.5	5.6
Finland	65.3	0.5	-43.4	0.1	-39.3	0.6	-31.7
France	85.6	1.1	-24.6	0.7	-38.4	1.2	-30.7
Germany	609.2	0.5	-24.7	0.0	-20.5	0.6	-9.1
Hong Kong	690.7	-0.4	-24.7	-1.0	-19.0	-0.3	-9.2
Italy	1860.2	-1.4	-15.2	-1.3	-2.1	-1.3	2.2
Japan	275.6	0.5	-28.5	0.0	-23.0	0.6	-13.8
Netherlands	339.7	-3.9	-44.9	-3.2	-39.7	-3.8	-33.6
New Zealand	727.3	-0.5	-23.1	-1.0	-17.3	-0.4	-7.2
Norway	1190.6	-1.0	-11.3	-1.4	-4.7	-0.9	7.0
Portugal	211.0	-1.2	-9.7	-1.7	-2.9	-1.1	8.9
Sing/Malay	1389.2	-2.0	-30.4	-1.6	-24.3	-1.9	-16.0
Spain	169.9	-0.5	-28.2	-0.8	-25.0	-0.4	-13.4
Sweden	1187.6	-0.9	-32.3	-1.1	-25.9	-0.8	-18.3
Switzerland	176.7	-1.2	-27.0	-1.2	-22.6	-0.8	-12.0
UK	708.8	-1.0	-22.5	-1.3	-22.2	-0.9	-6.5
USA	107.6	-0.9	-22.9	-1.2	-22.6	-0.8	-7.0
(all) Local currency.	348.6	0.2	-27.9	0.3	-13.0	0.3	-13.0

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings October 25 Last Dealings November 5 Last Declaration February 7 For Settlement February 18 Call options were taken out on 1/1/90 Berford Inds, Blacks Leisure, Citysion, Ford, Self Movers, Gestetner, News Int'l, Reuters, Potts, Blacks Leisure, Brent Walker.



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Cramphorn purchase

By Our City STAFF

CRAMPHORN, the USM garden centre operator, has acquired Macfarlanes Garden Centre, a family business based at Sprowston, Norwich, for £1.42 million. Cramphorn will also pay a further cash sum equivalent to the centre's stock.

Macfarlanes, one of Norwich's two principal garden centres, made pre-tax profits of £50,000 this year, bringing the total number of centres to 15.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT	641	CU	451
Abbot Net	595	Cookson	2,211
Abell-Jones	1,024	Davidson	2,030
Amstrand	634	Delaney	131
Anglian	458	Dixons	1,249
Argos	541	ECC	440
AS Foods	3,085	Enterprise	1,000
Argyl	680	Fisons	2,252
BAA	5,230	FKU	1,386
BET	2,860	Gen Acc	624
BTR	6,020	GECA	5,156
BTC	1,943	Genetics	2,148
Burdies	1,312	Glynned	510
Bass	561	Granaids	2,781
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ATHLETICS

The marathon may be the event for Evans by a distance

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

IMAGINE winning a million on the pools at the age of 59 and you will have some idea of how Paul Evans has been feeling. Evans was born into athlete's middle-age when, thanks to a whim, he joined sport's upper classes. Local league footballer at 25; jet-setting athlete at 29. Now he is out to spend, spend, spend his talent before it is too late.

Evans's first cross on the coupon was the Lowestoft Carnival, 1986. He entered the road race with his football team to raise money for charity, emptied some pockets and turned a few heads. Footballers with no experience of 10-kilometre racing are not supposed to run 33min 33sec on their first time out.

Evans has developed into one of Britain's best on the track (28min 18sec this year) and, following the principle that without gambling you cannot win, he is ready to try again. This time it is the New York Marathon, on Sunday. A bit like Lowestoft, really. No one here is expecting to see him at the sharp end.

But British marathon running is in need of a rescue act, as the Commonwealth Games and European championships proved. Unlike most, Evans wants to compete in a championship more than anything else. A good run here would veer him towards the marathon.

Anything under the 2hr 10min he is aiming for—and the course is a tough one—

should stir the British board with offers of financial help and immediate selection for the world championships next year, though it probably will not. If you are tough enough to run 26 miles, you are tough enough to look after yourself is the board's apparent attitude.

And, on marathon selection, there was so much dithering over picking Geoff Wightman, an obvious choice, for the European championships that they are hardly likely to be forward-thinking enough to give an athlete nine months' notice.

Evans made his international 10,000 metres debut in June with a win against Finland; in August, in the Sun Life Great Race, a three-week endurance event covering 235 miles, he was Britain's best again, winning five stages; now, hurrying on to the next peak, he is here for his marathon debut without so much as a training run of more than 20 miles behind him.

You can hear the sub-2hr 20min club whispering: "Sub-2hr? 10min? No chance." The Belgrave Harrier, though, is not so sure.

He covered the Great Race at 2hr 10min marathon pace. On the seventeenth day of hard running, he threw in a 63min 38sec half marathon.

The days of Steve Jones are gone and I would like to think it might be the next British marathon runner of his stamp

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Methodist College may find cup a test

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

WITH the draw for the Ulster Schools' Cup imminent, Methodist College, who are still unbeaten, have already established themselves as firm favourites although they only scraped home (11-9) against Belfast Academicals.

The ease with which Royal Belfast A1 saw off Ballymena (23-4) suggests that MCB will be pushed all the way, although Cainer, having slipped up against Ballymena (15-6), did manage to beat RBAI.

Reset by injury problems, Yorkshire Schools, who have just returned from a brief Irish tour, found Ulster in imperious mood at Ravenhill (31-7) and also lost in Dublin, where they met Leinster Schools (24-6).

Trinity, Croydon, with four county players in a strong pack, have maintained their unbeaten record with further victories against KCS Wimbledon (20-0), St Dunstan's (14-4) and RGS Guildford (18-3), scoring 249 points in the process to only 23 conceded.

Plymouth College reached the half-term break, unbeaten in regular fixtures with wins to

report against: Wellington School (25-7), West Belfast (16-0), Monmouth (11-7), Taunton (9-0) and St Bede's (13-10).

A young Wrexham side, which was initially plagued by injuries, has still managed to win five and lose only three matches, scoring 109 points to 80 conceded.

Following their narrow defeat in the under-18 Daily Mail Cup by Pangbourne (4-7), Douai have won all their matches.

They have been particularly well served by their three senior citizens, captain and flanker, Joseph McWilliams, Jonathan Spragg, at scrum half and Simon Dalton, in the centre.

King's, Macclesfield reached the break with two defeats and five victories to report, some set-backs in the south, though, who had lost their unbeaten record to Ampleforth (9-18), caught Stonyhurst with some key players missing and raced to a commanding victory by 50-9.

Catford have won five and lost four matches and they toured Hampshire successfully at half-term, beating Petersfield at Under-19s (37-0) and Churcher's College (9-8).

The race for runners who like the wild going



In the dark: Karrimor runners, with maps and compasses at the ready, need a torch, too, when the going gets murky

Masters of suffering and survival

WAITING to start the annual Karrimor International Mountain Marathon beside Loch Rannoch in the central highlands of Scotland, I thought nervously about the two days of survival and self sufficiency that lay ahead. I would be crossing some of the most remote mountain terrain in Britain and competing against some 3,000 other runners who had been drawn to this remote spot to take part in a unique race.

For the past 23 years, the challenge of the "Karrimor" has attracted the fell runners and orienteers to mountain terrain in Britain and it is now so popular that the organisers who make outdoor equipment—reject more applications to take part than they accept. Any race which can inspire such huge numbers to travel so far north for an uncomfortable weekend in hostile surroundings must be special, but the only way to discover the secret of the Karrimor experience was the hard way, I had to take part.

For safety reasons, everyone competes in pairs, so my partner was Ian Douglas, a very capable Scottish hill walker.

Finding the right partner is essential as the Karrimor tests teamwork to the limit and has been known to make and break friendships. Next we needed to pack carefully for an overnight camp as we had to be self sufficient for the two days of the race. Taking too much would slow us down but carrying too little food or clothing could lead to exhaustion and hypothermia.

We arrived at the start with 15lb packs but no idea where we would have to go. Like all adventures, the Karrimor is about stepping into the unknown and only as we started were we given a list of map references locating the points we must visit to complete our 24-kilometre course for the day.

On the physical act of crossing such wild terrain was more testing, especially the long climbs and wading rivers, one of which I fell into.

After four-and-a-half hours

and just when I felt I could not go up another hill, we finished our course at the head of the beautiful Glen Lyon where a field was set aside for the overnight camp. Now the contents of our rucksacks had to be unpacked and our camp craft came into play. The more comfortable and well-set we were at the camp, the better we would perform on the second day.

During the afternoon what had previously been a deserted spot was transformed into a thriving tented city as more and more teams arrived, many taking far longer than we had and a few finishing in the dark. As resting runners sat around their stoves, a conversational warmth and the shared experience of the day and the prospects for tomorrow. It was a atmosphere of comradeship, not

of competition.

The first day had been a test of

stamina and self-reliance, battling against the elements and the mountains, but the overnight publication of the results so far reminded us we were also competing in a race. Having survived the night, we were more confident and started place out of 250 brought a competitive edge to the second day.

Nevertheless, getting started again early next morning was an uncomfortable experience as wet shoes and clothes were put on and aching muscles forced into action. At 19 kilometres, there was less distance to cover on the second day but low cloud, rain and more climbing meant it was just as difficult for already weary legs.

It was by our high position and with no navigational errors we pushed ourselves harder, finishing back at Loch Rannoch in just under four hours and at the point of exhaustion. Our efforts were enough to take 19th place but that was secondary to the feeling of triumph at simply completing the course. Crossing the line, I realised why runners return to this race again and again. Elation at the finish more than compensated for any mishaps along the way and the satisfaction will continue long enough to ensure that wherever the Karrimor is held next year, I will enter again.

The first day had been a test of

judging the health of the sport.

Both entries and number of runners showed a significant decline from previous seasons but this was caused entirely by the weather, with lack of rain making the going firm on most courses from early April.

Although the changes have been due to the restrictions for 1991, only half a dozen or so have much significance.

The responsibilities of the clerk of the course have been redefined so that the committee bears the ultimate responsibility for courses, fences and safety.

The penalty for ineligibility of former steeplechase to run in point-to-point has been raised by £1,000 to £7,500; any rider who has a fall must report to the doctor.

On one occasion last season a horse was withdrawn without the owner's permission. In future the authority to act for an owner must be in writing.

Unless a withdrawal has been caused by circumstances outside the control of the owner, a fine of £100 will be imposed.

A new insurance scheme for riders has been introduced giving a weekly payment of £100 for anybody unable to work following a point-to-point injury.

Content to qualify the British pair were never extended. The qualifiers from the other semi-final, reigning world champions, Thomas Young and Uwe Kellner of East Germany, Taga and Voinoiu of Romania, and Dumitru and Lacasa of France, were several seconds faster, but in a harder race with more favourable wind conditions.

There were only three other British crews to qualify in the semi-final: James Headland and Richard Stoute in the light-weight double scull, and the light-weight and heavyweight quadruple sculls crews. None were competitive at this level, and without intending unkindness none were realistically expected to be so, though the heavyweight quad may well have been one of the fastest British quad to date.

Sculling at international level has been woefully neglected in Britain for a long time partly because there had been no good sculling coaches and, perhaps more seriously, scullers always tends to be drafted into a rowing crew in a team which is not over-blessed with talent.

Now Britain's pool of promising and indeed experienced oarsmen is well stocked.

David Tanner, the senior coach, said yesterday that he recognises that the time has come to encourage sculling. If the coaching problem can be solved, and there is presently few British coaches with sculling expertise, this could be the future for the up and coming generation.

Desert Orchid has Devon among options

DESERT Orchid has been entered for the Plymouth Gin Gold Challenge Cup Chase at Devon on Tuesday but a decision on his participation will not be made until next week.

The grey's trainer, David Winstone, will also enter him at Wincanton next Thursday, where he could run in either the Bitter Beer Handicap, now won over 2m, or the Silver Buck Handicap.

Panto Prince, the winner of the Devon mce last season, will also be entered at Wincanton, as well as the Needwood Champion Chase at Uttoxeter the same day.

The eight acceptors are: Bluebird King, Clever Folly, Desert Orchid, Knobbrack, Panto Prince, Sabine Du Loir, Setter Country, Waterloo Boy.

Raymond plans Macau visit

Bruce Raymond will ride in Macau for two months this winter. He leaves Britain at the end of the month to join the leading local trainer, Paul Leung.

Raymond, who has announced his intention to ride in Hong Kong and Pat Eddery.

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The case for tighter purse strings

By DAVID HARDS

TODAY the full committee of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will meet to digest the implications of the International Rugby Football Board's (IRFB) decision to revise the amateur regulations. The committee will do so in an unhappy mood because what the IRFB agreed, in terms of enabling players to take money directly from the game, went beyond what the RFU representatives could vote for.

When the committee last met (before the IRFB interim meeting) there was a three to one majority favouring a liberalised regulation four (communication for reward). Cliff Brittle, who represents Staffordshire on the committee, was one of the minority who made a spirited defence against any change to that regulation.

Brittle, aged 48, has a background as a player. It is players, at the highest level, who are pressing for change. Brittle played club rugby for Stoke-on-Trent and Sale, and for his county. He coached Staffordshire for ten years, at under-23 and senior level, was a

county selector, and chaired the Midland Division between 1985 and 1987. He has recently been asked to chair the division's playing support committee.

Brittle does not believe that modern conditions made the decision inevitable.

"I am certainly not anti-player, nor am I against change as long as it is controlled change," he said. "However, these changes alter the ideology of rugby union and I am sure I speak for a number of my colleagues when I say there is a feeling of quiet anger. The game has recently been brought into modern times by the introduction of leagues, the World Cup, and greater sponsorship. Surely it was time for consolidation?"

"I have always striven to ensure the top players should be given the best facilities in travel, hotels, kit, et cetera, and they should suffer no financial loss. However, I firmly believe that no player or official should make financial gain, either directly or indirectly, from inside or outside the game."

"I have no objection to officially retired players receiving financial

reward for writing newspaper articles, books or making television appearances and still retain retaining the right to be included in the game. Anything other than this will, in my opinion, have dire consequences on both the playing and administrative functions within the game."

Brittle said that the game's administrators were being manipulated towards changes in order to take advantage of the World Cup next year. "It is our duty to administer for the improvement of the game as a whole and not for this small number of 'media stars' who wish to capitalise on their new-found status. That status has been achieved with enormous assistance from many dedicated amateur administrators, many of them ex-players, who give up much of their spare time and travel many thousands of miles at their own expense."

"Rugby union is a team game in every respect. The player receives considerable kudos by playing international rugby union. If playing for his country is no longer

sufficient reward and the pressures become too great (they will increase with extra commercial activity) then he can solve the problem by opting out, as indeed we all can," Brittle said.

"Under the old law we knew we had the basic framework of control at the centre, although we were not strong enough in policing it," he said. "We should concentrate on investigating why they did not work on a world-wide basis and then give ourselves time to consider the consequences of any changes."

"Within the new law there is no effective control as there are no standard procedures between member unions. Central control will be lost internationally and, very possibly, within individual unions. If this is so, our basic foundation will be in jeopardy."

Brittle can see no good reason for the game to turn professional because of differing social and commercial circumstances in the southern hemisphere. "Rugby union has grown in size and attracted so much commercial attention because of its amateur

status," he said. "We have a magnificent infrastructure. Clubs at all levels own or lease their own grounds and clubhouses, providing a social centre for the community. With the exception of a few paid officials, all this work is done by dedicated amateur administrators. If we lose their confidence and they decide their efforts are going to profit a few, select players, retirements will be inevitable."

Brittle said the new rules could create a two-tier system — the professional game with paid players, administrators, coaches and referees and at a lower level the amateur game. "The professional game will receive the sponsorships, and the loss of control of finances at the centre, fundamental to the development of the game, will lead to the rich getting richer and the grass roots getting nothing."

"The top players labour under a misapprehension that the game is awash with money. International gates and major sponsorships provide substantial sums of money, but all of it is filtered by the game is played now."

A double helping of rugby union B internationals will enable youngsters to press their claims for selection

Brewer at No. 8 for All Blacks

From CHRIS THAU

IN NANTES

OTAGO'S captain, Mike Brewer, has been confirmed as the new All Black No. 8 for the international against France tomorrow. He replaces Zinzan Brooke, who has been dropped after three consecutive matches for the All Blacks.

Brewer, who bruised a heel in the midweek game in Bayonne, passed a fitness test and then trained with the side yesterday morning. The All Blacks have also sent for the utility prop, Olo Brown, as a replacement for the injured Graham Purvis.

On the French side, the South African born flanker forward, Eric Melville, who injured a knee on Wednesday, was back in training. With his right knee heavily strapped he was very active in both morning and afternoon sessions. Melville confirmed that he was ready to play but should his knee give way in his place, "I'll go to the other 'foreigner' on the side, Morocco's Abdellatif Benzaïd."

The new French coach, Daniel Dubroca, feels that given the All Blacks' capacity to thrive in adversity, the defeat in Bayonne may have been counter-productive for French aspirations.

"I'm not so sure that the win against the Basques on Tuesday was such good news for France. The Blacks, after such defeat, go back to basics and then bounce back with a vengeance," Dubroca said.

NEW ZEALAND (v France): K Crowley, J Kavanagh, C Innes, W Little, T Wright, G Fox, G Garside, J Gough, J Fife, C Jackson, S McHowell, A Whetton, J Jones, G Whetton (captain), Michael Jones, M Brewer.

Namibia take steps on the wider stage

By DAVID HARDS

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE first of two B internationals within 48 hours takes place at Welford Road, Leicester, this evening when England entertain Namibia for the first time. Credibility will be at issue on both sides.

The visitors want to offer a respectable showing on a wider stage. Several Englishmen want to press claims for promotion to the senior team.

John Steele, the Northampton stand-off half, for instance, faces an important night. His tactical acumen has helped his club to the confident position — last weekend's 60-0 defeat by Orrell aside — that he occupy in the first division. He is as aware as anybody that the back-up to Rob Andrew is far from extensive and his chance to perform comes first while his main rival, David Pears, capped twice against Argentina during the summer, must wait until Sunday when England's second B XV play the Emerging Australians at Wasps.

Andy Robinson captains this evening's side and it will not have escaped his attention that he, England's blond back-row bombshell of 1989, is expected to perform on the ground that a potential blond bombshell of 1991, Neil Back,

now calls home. Robinson's leadership will be, as ever, from the front and he has three other senior internationals, Evans, Barley and Skinner, to assist him.

Evans and Adeboyo, the respective wings, both passed fitness tests yesterday but Ben Clarke, the Saracens No. 8, has been added to Sunday's party because Jon Ellison, of Wasps, has withdrawn from the replacements.

Namibia fielded their best XV in the 23-15 win over Lancashire on Tuesday. It differs in only four respects from the team which lost 34-30 to Wales in June. Three are enforced changes. Neither Barnard, the flanker, nor McCuller, the stand-off half, could tour and Coetzee was in the side against Wales at full back because Stoop, the first choice, had been sent off the previous week.

The Namibians, who be-

came associate members of the International Rugby Football Board almost as soon as they had won political independence this year, have a reputation for keeping the ball in the hand and using Stoop's attacking flair. That will present Barley, a noted midfield organiser for Wakefield, Yorkshire and many a representative side with some interesting problems.

• Geoff Didier, the prop forward sent off during the Emerging Australians' 22-6 win over England Students at Stratford on Wednesday, has been suspended for two matches. Didier, dismissed for punching, will miss selection for the touring side's games against England B on Sunday and a French regional selection next Wednesday.

• Sean O'Leary, the England B second-row forward, returns to the Wasps first XV Sunday for the first time since he was badly injured in the car crash which killed his colleague, Ralph Tsagane, last Easter.

O'Leary, who suffered broken ribs in the accident, makes his comeback at Bath in a match to raise money for the fund set up in Tsagane's name and the Bath colt, Steve Roberts, who was paralysed in a rugby accident last season.



Man and ball: Dean Richards trains at Twickenham yesterday. Report, page 40

That fine line between winning and losing

GERALD DAVIES

YOU do not have to listen too closely to any sporting chit-chat to gather what sport, in the vernacular, is "about". Sport, in a nutshell, is about winning, you hear. It is about the fear of losing. It is about the spirit among the lads. And, among the rugby fraternity of late, as they were suddenly about to enter a whole new ball game, as they say, rugby is about commitment.

Years ago, it was about crossing the gain line. And years before that, when the thought of winning had not entered too persuasively or endearingly into the national consciousness, it was about camaraderie.

Pared to the bone, a game's philosophy is encapsulated, precisely and exclusively, in a phrase. But rugby is not quite like that, of course. Nor is any other sport for that matter. But it can get to seem to be about one thing in particular. If it was entirely "about" winning, for instance, would be necessary to query whether all those losses over a weekend were in possession of the right number of marbles. Why do it? And why do it again and again?

At any rate, I do not suppose we will need to keep our ears too close to the ground over the next couple of months, watching if Welsh rugby, and the likely performance of the national team in the five nations' championship, is going to be "about" anything, it is going to be about the lineout.

Against the Barbarians last month, the Welsh team were outgunned and outmanoeuvred throughout in this phase. Wales managed to win a mere 20 per cent of the possession. No team can hope to exist on such a meagre diet and that they should have kept as close as they did was due, in large measure, to the generosity of some of the Barbarians' back division who

interpreted the occasion, much to their captain's annoyance, as one to see whether a seven-a-side policy could happily co-exist within a larger framework.

They found, of course, that it could not. Wales found that they were fit enough to do a lot of running around in defence.

This is nothing new for Wales, a country which may indeed have been well-entitled to such a name if anything like a similar production line for tall men. That they should have existed as they have done during the last decade has been due to the excellence of Robert Norster at lock. His value was appreciated in 1986 when he missed an entire international season.

If further evidence were required we need only look back to Norster's performance two years ago. That Wales should still remain unbeaten against England at the Arms Park was due to Norster cleaning out Dooley in the lineout. He had worked similar such feats for Wales at Twickenham a year earlier.

However, he is no longer around for the duel with Dooley and England this January, except in an advisory capacity to Ron Waldron, the national coach. Instead, the Welsh coach, Gareth Williams, of Neath, Paul Arnold, of Swansea, and the uncappted pair, Andrew Keay, of Llanelli, and Stuart Roy, of Cardiff. They are all babes in arms compared to Dooley and Ackford. None are older than 22.

The choice brings with it the kind of thing that brings selection frames for a place in tomorrow's final against either the world champion, Stephen Hendry, or Mike Hallett. It is worth £55,000 to the winner.

Taylor had earlier squeezed home a 5-4 in a high quality match against a rejuvenated Neil Foulds, aided by the cue which he won the world championship in 1985 but which was subsequently chewed by his dog. He only began using it again two weeks ago after repairs to eradicate 40 teeth marks around the tip.

Chappell, aged 30, left school

the RFU into the counties and clubs for the development of the game. Many of my colleagues are trying to raise funds to appoint youth development officers. Our case has not been assisted by recent publicity over the game's status," he said.

He believes the RFU should have taken an independent stance and accepted the consequences of maintaining the old law. "It still has discretionary powers in any case, which it may use even if some players are disadvantaged in relation to others. Assuming, though, that the IRFB decision will not be reversed, the RFU must control the situation in England from the outset, by becoming the sole agent for all the players' commercial activities."

"Those wishing to make a living out of sport should not be encouraged to join rugby union. I believe rugby's other developing nations do not want another professional game. They want to supply their young men with a part-time activity sport, as the game is played now."

TENNIS

Sampras falls to charged Raoux

From ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

PETE Sampras discovered one of the pitfalls of life as a champion yesterday. The young Californian, who two months ago made a masterful display of service and volleys on the centre court at Flushing Meadow to become the youngest winner of the US Open title at the age of 19, was humbled by Guillaume Raoux, a qualifier ranked No. 14 in France and 134 in the world, in the third round of the Paris Open.

As Becker had to before him, Sampras is learning that wearing the sheriff's badge makes you a target for every gunslinger in town. "I have to rise to every occasion now," Sampras said. "I'm bitterly disappointed that I didn't do so today. I've got to make sure it doesn't happen again."

With his burly frame and spectacles, Raoux bears a passing resemblance to Jaroslav Drobný, though his shorts are a neater cut. He is also a natural live-and-let-live, partly because he was banished to the outer courts of his club during his youth. Sampras' physique is not ideal for baseline attrition anyway. As Sampras is not one to waste time on a point either, there was always going to be a staccato rhythm to the match and the Frenchman, despite losing the second set and immediately going a break down in the third, had marginally the more consistent beat.

Sampras, who heads for London and the Diet Pepsi Indoor Challenge at Wembley next week, has at least secured his place in the IBM/ATP tour finals at Frankfurt in 10 days' time. John McEnroe's last chance disappeared when he came to within two points of victory before losing to Jacob Vanek in the second round after the inevitable dispute over a line call.

It was McEnroe's last competitive match of the year. The American has decided to focus his riches on offer at the Coming Grand Slam Cup in March next month and shake off a niggling foot injury in time for the Australian Open in January.

For Becker will also be absent from Miami, by which time he could easily be No. 1 in the world. Becker casually dismissed Jim Courier to reach the fourth round here yesterday. The irony not lost on the German is that he could reach the top without winning a grand slam. "I don't think that's right," he said yesterday.

RESULTS: THIRD ROUND: G Raoux (Fr) b P Sampras (Us) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) b M Riosset (Switz) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; J-C Lescure (Fr) b J-C Bouquet (Fr) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; M Stich (Ger) b G Gobert (Us) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; E Sánchez (Sp) b G Forget (Fr) 6-3, 6-3.

Power of Durie in evidence

JO DURIE, the top seed, and once ranked No. 5 in the world, used her power and experience to good effect in the Prudential British national championships at Telford yesterday.

Her quarter-final opponent, Kaye Hand, of Wokingham, is just making her way up the ladder. So Durie's 6-0, 6-1 victory, though more one-sided than expected, was not altogether surprising.

The Bristol player, aged 30, who has been national champion four times, simply hit too hard and accurately for her rival and was on and off court in 47 minutes.

Only last week Hand did well to qualify for the international tournament at Brighton and went on to beat Brenda Schultz, the Dutch woman ranked 46th in the world, in the first round. But she has been playing mostly in satellite events this year and has had little chance of meeting the likes of Durie's power and experience.

Sarah Loosmore, the 19-year-old Welsh prospect, who won the women's title two years ago, struggled through to the semi-final by beating Anne-Simone Simpkin, the Leicestershire player, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. Loosmore was 2-4 down in both the first and second sets and missed five match points in the third before winning.

She said: "I've not been playing at my best this week, but I'm winning my matches. But I shall need to improve if I am to have a chance of winning the title again."

RESULTS: MASTERS: SURVEY: THIRD ROUND: D Taylor (Eng) b A Form (Barts) 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) b M Adams (Eng) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; A Castle (Somerset) b G Williams (Eng) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; M Mathews (Hants) and Lai (Eng) b D Brown (Cheshire) 6-3, 6-7, 10-8. WOMEN'S SINGLES: QUARTER-FINAL: J Durie (Avon) b V Phillips (Wales) 6-3, 6-2; S Loosmore (South Wales) b A Simpkin (Lancs) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

SNOOKER

Parrott's blunders push Chappell into last four

From STEVE ACTESON
IN GUANGZHOU

TONY Chappell had waited six years to figure in a ranking tournament quarter-final but having finally made it, he lost to the occasion last night, beating the world No. 3, John Parrott, ranked 40 places above him, to claim a place in the last four of the £200,000 1985 Asian Open here yesterday.

Chappell, aged 30, left school

for the dole queue at the age of 17 in his native Swansea but swiftly found work. He certainly had to work hard against Parrott, who three times fought back to only one frame behind despite his indifferent form before the last of a long line of blunders. A missed and easy break finally gave Chappell his sight of the winning line.

"That's the one I played all

season but I don't want to take anything away from Tony and I fully deserve to be on a slow boat back from China. Parrott quipped.

RESULTS: QUARTER-FINAL: D Taylor (Eng) 5-4; A Chappell (Wales) 5-3.

Taylor's order of play: Sammons 5-4; Chappell 5-4; Scott 5-4; Hallett (Eng) 5-3.

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SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2 1990

Inexcusable confusion over the way aggressors are punished



Burrows, of Liverpool, stretches out a leg to pull down Wallace, of Manchester United, with a 'professional foul' that earned Burrows only a booking in the Rumbelows Cup tie at Old Trafford. The action was caught in freeze-frame by ITV Sport

Refereeing lottery of 'professional foul'

By STUART JONES
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL referees have shown this week they still lack consistency in applying the clear and firm directive from Fifa about the "professional foul": the deliberate offence committed to stop the other side scoring. Such a foul was committed during three of the Rumbelows Cup-ties — and each offender received a different penalty.

Neil Pointon, Manchester City's left back, was not even censured for bringing down Kevin Campbell, of Arsenal. David Burrows, Liverpool's left back, was merely

booked for pulling Danny Wallace, Manchester United's winger, Dave Watson, Everton's central defender, was sent off for baulking Brian Deane, of Sheffield United.

Such confusion is inexcusable. Once Fifa, the world governing body, had seen what it called "the advantages which have already been demonstrated during the World Cup finals", law 12 (h) was amended even before the tournament ended. A mandatory instruction was circulated on July 6 specifically to clear the minds and the consciences of referees.

"If, in the opinion of a referee, a player, who is moving towards his

opponent's goal with an obvious opportunity to score, is intentionally and physically impeded by unlawful means, thus denying the attacking player's team the scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off for serious foul play."

In the opinion of Alf Bulsh, the referee of the Sheffield United-Everton match, Watson was guilty and the appropriate action was taken. The evidence of television suggests that the challenge was clumsy rather than deliberate.

Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, could be excused for feeling that the decision was particularly

cruel: without Watson, Everton lost the tie, and Harvey lost his job.

In the opinion of Ken Redfern, the referee of the Manchester City-Arsenal match, Pointon was innocent and no action was taken. Curiously, though, a free-kick was awarded to Arsenal. Fifa's missive states categorically that "unlawful means" should be interpreted as any offence which is "punishable by a free-kick or a penalty".

In the opinion of Joe Worrall, the referee of the Manchester United-Liverpool match, Burrows was neither guilty nor innocent. The case was the most blatant of

the three and, as 42,033 people waited for the verdict at Old Trafford, it seemed as though there could be only one conclusion: Liverpool were about to be reduced to ten men.

The more the incident was replayed on television on Wednesday night, the sharper the image became: it was a deliberate foul in its execution and timing: Burrows, realising he had no chance of overtaking Wallace or tackling him legitimately, thrust out a foot and hooked Wallace to the ground.

When Worrall finished speaking to Burrows and flourished only a

yellow card, United's supporters saw red. They remembered that Steve Bruce had been dismissed for the same offence earlier this season. Not only was he suspended for three matches, he also lost the captaincy.

As Alex Ferguson, the United manager, noted, Bruce may have been responsible for the leniency shown to Burrows, whose intentions had been evident as he chased after Wallace. As Wallace lay sprawled on the turf, Bruce ran over to Worrall to plead for mercy.

Thankfully, the result was not affected, but it is as well to

consider the possible consequences had Liverpool gone on to maintain their unbeaten sequence on Wednesday night and earn a replay. Instead of leaving the stadium in a state of delirium, United's followers might have been tempted to vent their frustration.

Nothing is more likely to incite a crowd than the professional foul. Managers may choose to turn a blind eye whenever it is convenient but referees must be seen consistently to use the power they have been given. No longer can they claim to be whistling in the dark.

Royle the favourite for Everton's job

By IAN ROSS

ON A day when he was privately insisting that he would not be applying for the job, Joe Royle yesterday moved a step closer to becoming the next manager of Everton.

Royle, the manager of Oldham Athletic, the second division leaders, has emerged as the man most likely to succeed Colin Harvey, who was dismissed on Wednesday as a direct consequence of Everton's disappointing start to the season.

Although Everton's decision to advertise the vacant post would suggest that the club's board of directors has entered the search for Harvey's successor with an open mind, Royle tops an unofficial shortlist of candidates which would have included Ron Atkinson, had the manager of Sheffield Wednesday not yesterday ruled himself out.

Several members of the Everton board had been lobbying for Atkinson's

appointment but the chances of the former manager of Manchester United assuming command at Goodison Park receded with the news that he is shortly to sign an extension to his present contract which will tie him to the South Yorkshire club until June 1993.

"We are very flattered that Everton would want Ron Atkinson but if they ask for permission to approach him, it will be refused," David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, said. "He is very much a part of our plans for the future and he will not be leaving. We do not need to draw up a battle plan to keep him and frankly I was amazed and shocked by all this speculation."

Atkinson, who was born in Liverpool, confirmed that he would shortly sign a new contract. "We are almost there. I have agreed a deal with the chairman which will be sorted out shortly. I love it here," he said.

Barring an unthinkable last minute application by Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, Atkinson's declaration of contentment with life at Hillsborough paves the way for the appointment of Royle once the two parties have agreed on a formula to officially open negotiations.

As Royle pondered a future of rich promise, the man he is set to replace reflected on his three-year spell in charge at Everton. Harvey, who has spent 25 of the last 27 years in the club's service, admitted that he had failed to seize the opportunity to keep Everton at the forefront of English football.

"The opportunity to be successful was there. There was always money available to me so I never had a problem in that respect," he said. "I just did not knit it all together. When the time is right, I shall return to Everton as a fan. It was heartbreaking to wake up this morning and realise that I wasn't going into work."

Senna, who drove alongside Prost for McLaren for two years, rarely mentioned Prost's name but talked of "him" in a way that showed he had little respect for his rival. After the race Prost said he believed the crash was deliberate but did not reply to Senna yesterday after instructions from his Ferrari team.

"If anything goes wrong, if anyone gets near to him, then it's a major problem."

But leading drivers seemed to disagree with Senna yesterday, applauding the sport's governing body, Fisa, for launching an official enquiry into driving standards. Nelson Piquet, the former champion, led those who felt the crash in Japan had brought it on.

"After I saw the helicopter shot of the crash, I was very disappointed in Ayrton for what he'd done," Piquet said of his fellow Brazilian. "That was very, very bad for the sport."

Molby, aged 27, is contracted to Liverpool until the end of the season.

Paul Hodkinson wants another bang at a world title, Barney Eastwood wants to bang some promoters heads together, and promoter Mickey Duff talks of banging away with a cannon in the Grand Hall at Wembley — an explosive mixture for a show that got underway in front of only 400 spectators.

It was European championship boxing night and Eastwood felt he and his man Hodkinson had been tricked not treated because of the antics of promoters.

Hodkinson had done the business perfectly, retaining his European featherweight crown with a classic combination of blows, finishing with as beautiful a left as any purist could wish. His opponent, Guy Bellehigue, saw the Grand Hall lights go out after 47 seconds of the third round, and Hodkinson was back on the world title trail.

While the Liverpudlian cele-

Senna tells Prost the best man is champion

By DAVID HANDS
 RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ADELAIDE (Reuters) — Ayrton Senna, the world champion, said that Alain Prost, his main rival in Formula One motor racing, should stop complaining and accept he was beaten to the 1990 title by a better driver. Matias Allen comes into the centre and Gonzalez Camardon wins his first cap at

scrum half.

Allen's elevation is no surprise. He replaces Herman Garcia Simon, who dislocated his elbow so badly in the 20-18 defeat against the Irish that his tour was ended and he returned home this week. Allen is the younger brother of Jorge Allen, the back-row forward who led his country during Rodolfo O'Reilly's period as coach, and was capped against Canada earlier this year.

He is slightly bigger than the forceful Garcia Simon, and it means little change to the style of the Pumas' midfield; that was possibly the main argument against introducing the elusive Lisandro Arbizu out of position, at centre rather than stand-off half.

Camardon, who snapped away busily against Eastern Counties on Tuesday, takes over from Rodrigo Crexell.

"There are far too many

Carling sees Argentina as five nations prelude

By DAVID HANDS
 RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA will make two changes to the side that came so close to beating Ireland for the second international of their tour, against England at Twickenham tomorrow. Matias Allen comes into the centre and Gonzalez Camardon wins his first cap at

scrum half.

whose hands let him down at vital moments during his international debut at Lansdowne Road. Camardon, who will be 20 in December, is one of five teenagers in the party, of whom Jorge Mendez and Sponer are also in the international XV.

The Argentinians trained at Lensbury in warm sunshine yesterday while England, having gathered on Wednesday evening in time to work together, held their main training at the Stoop Memorial ground. Will Carling, the England captain, confirmed his recovery from a strained ankle ligament and shrugged off any suggestion that this was England's opportunity to take revenge for the defeat in the second summer international against the Pumas.

Carling emphasised the need to produce quick second-phase and third-phase possession, which led last season to so many scores. "We had stages in the Barbarians game [in September] when we put pressure on them but didn't score any points because we didn't recycle the ball quickly enough," he said. "It's a matter of concentration rather than lack of ability."

new people for it to be a revenge match for the tour," he said. "We view it more as the last game before the five nations, rather than the third game in a series with Argentina. This is a one-off that we have to use to look at players for the championship and, beyond that, the World Cup, as opposed to making sure we beat Argentina 3-1.

"This should be more of a reflection of the patterns of play we produced in the five nations last season. We developed an efficient pattern, even though we lost one match, a basis from which we can progress. I'm happy with the foundation we've got but the next nine months of rugby will prove whether we are serious contenders or not."

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Time is getting on," the tour manager, Peter Lush, said yesterday. "It comes down to budgets. Companies cannot always find extra money half way through a financial year."

The TCCB is keen to tie up a lengthy deal which could be worth about £1 million to the English game. "Negotiations are on-going and it's difficult to say whether anything will be concluded in time for all or part of the Ashes series," the TCCB marketing manager, Terry Blake, said.

Gooch and co, meanwhile,

go into the first four-day game of their tour in Perth today with particular interest centred on Mike Atherton and Devon Malcolm.

Atherton, the opening batsman, has yet to show anything like his form of the English summer, while the key fast bowler, Malcolm, will be operating on the bounciest pitch in Australia.

Meanwhile, Bobby Simpson, the Australian coach, will be among those watching events in Perth. Apart from spying on England, Simpson is keen to have an early season look at several of the Western Australian team.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (from G. P. Marsh (captain), W. Andrew, T. M. Alderman, P. Cooper, T. Morgan, R. H. MacLay, C. G. O'Farrell, D. J. Morris, M. J. Morris, B. A. Field, M. R. J. Veletta, G. Wood, T. J. Zosher.

IRL: D. J. Hearn (captain), T. M. Alderman, P. Cooper, T. Morgan, R. H. MacLay, C. G. O'Farrell, D. J. Morris, M. J. Morris, B. A. Field, M. R. J. Veletta, G. Wood, T. J. Zosher.

ENGLAND (from G. Gooch (captain), A. J. Lewis, R. A. Smith, J. Morris, C. C. Lewis, R. C. Russell, A. R. C. Fraser, D. E. Malcolm, G. C. Small, P. C. Taitell.

Rugby's dilemma, page 38

Comeback delayed

The Neath and Wales lock, Gareth Llewellyn, out of action for six months with pelvic trouble, has decided to delay his rugby comeback for another week

to their supporters you could have fired a cannon in here tonight and not hit anybody," he said.

"I booked this hall four months ago, well before Hearn chose the date. The world boxing bodies have limited world title fights to 12 rounds — this fight is going to be a 12-round. We might find out how much money Barry Hearn really has got."

Back to the boxing: Hodkinson is convinced he will beat the World Boxing Council champion, Marcos Villaseca, if they meet again, after having to quit against the Mexican last June because he could not see out of badly swollen eyes. While he waits for another chance he is prepared to take on John Davison, the Geordie, for his lesser WBC International title — provided the money is right. It is a risky bout — and they want risk money.

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On line to serve you

How punters tricked Duff on Halloween night

PAUL Hodkinson wants another bang at a world title, Barney Eastwood wants to bang some promoters heads together, and promoter Mickey Duff talks of banging away with a cannon in the Grand Hall at Wembley — an explosive mixture for a show that got underway in front of only 400 spectators.

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While the Liverpudlian cele-

arrangements right. The punters are

paying good money to see fights but

they will stay at home and see it on

TV instead."

But Eastwood, himself a pro-

moter, knows the problem better

than most. The board were con-

fronted with legal threats for re-

straint of trade from promoters who

claimed that under the fair trad-

ing laws they were entitled to put on a

show whenever they pleased.

The board had to back down from

their long-standing instruction that

there should be a fortnight's gap

between big shows. They are now

conducting an investigation into the

problem and Wednesday night's

clash was what they have always

warned against.

The decisive factor is the big

money from television. BBC tele-